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TITLE: A magnetic hitchhiker

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Short Running Title: A Magnetic Hitchiker

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CASE REPORT
A 48 year-old-man presented with abdominal pain after accidentally swallowing two magnets, 1.3cm in size. CT scan showed a disc shaped foreign body in the terminal ileum (Figure 1). Colon lavage was initiated with 4L of polyethylene glycol on the day of admission. Abdominal x-ray showed unchanged location of the magnets. On day one of admission, an additional 2L of polyethylene glycol was subsequently administered, without change in magnet location. The abdominal pain progressed and nausea developed. There were no peritoneal signs, and he was hemodynamically stable. A colonoscopy was performed including distal ileum intubation without identification of the magnets until retroflexion in the rectum where the magnets were found to be ‘trailing along’ on the shaft of the colonoscope (Figure 2). Abdominal pain and nausea resolved. The patient was discharged home.

DISCUSSION
Multiple magnet ingestion can have potentially dreadful complications including obstruction, volvulus, perforation, or fistulization between bowel loops secondary to the attractive forces between magnets [1-3]. Bowel lavage with serial abdominal radiographs, endoscopic or surgical management are therapeutic options depending on the number of magnets and the patient’s clinical presentation [2-3]. In our case, both magnets had been demonstrated on CT to be stuck together as a single foreign body, and were endoscopically removed successfully.

CONCLUSION
This case demonstrates the magnetic potential between magnets and the colonoscope shaft; and provides another reminder to always retroflex in the rectum!

Keywords: Magnets, retroflexion, foreign body ingestion, endoscopic removal

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
The authors have no conflict of interest.
AUTHOR’S CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Adike and Dr. Dibaise
Group 1-Conception and design, Acquisition of data

Dr. Adike and Dr. Noelting
Group 2-Drafting the article

Dr. Dibaise
Group 2-Critical revision of the article
Group 3-Final approval of the version to be published

REFERENCES


FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1: Computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen showed a disc shaped foreign body likely in the terminal ileum measuring ~1.3cm

Figure 2: Retroflexion view of the rectum showing the magnets ‘trailing along’ on the shaft of the colonoscope.
FIGURES

Figure 1: Computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen showed a disc shaped foreign body likely in the terminal ileum measuring ~1.3 cm
Figure 2: Retroflexion view of the rectum showing the magnets ‘trailing along’ on the shaft of the colonoscope