

Removal of a foreign body from the tracheobronchial tree

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A 35 year-old male was admitted to the neurosurgery department with traumatic brain injury due to a car accident. A chest X-ray after resuscitation revealed a foreign body in the left main bronchus (Figure 1). It was reported that during the initial emergency phase of his management he underwent a lengthy intubation procedure during which his artificial denture was broken. Under general anaesthesia his tracheostomy tube was removed and a rigid bronchoscope was inserted. The foreign body was found to be occluding almost completely the left main bronchus (Figure 2). The foreign body, which was a piece of the broken artificial denture, was finally removed using the rigid biopsy forceps (Figure 3).



FIGURE 1. A chest X-ray of 35 year-old male showing foreign body in the left main bronchus.



FIGURE 2. Bronchoscopic appearance of the left main bronchus before and after removal of the foreign body.



FIGURE 3. The foreign body (part of broken denture) after removal from the left main bronchus.

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