

中文題目：胸部 X 光中發現有疑似牙齒阻塞氣管的患者，胸部電腦斷層掃描可避免無必要之支氣管鏡檢查

英文題目：Bronchoscopy is unnecessary if we can perform the computed tomographic scan in time on a patient with a tooth suspected in trachea from the chest radiography

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Tracheal and esophageal foreign body impaction can be an emergent condition with high mortality rate. The complication could be trachea or esophageal perforations, mediastinitis and respiratory failure. Chest film is commonly used to find out the radiopaque object and to early diagnosis critical complications such as esophageal perforation because of its convenience. Instead, computed tomographic (CT) scan plays the role of exact localization of foreign bodies in complicated cases. We hereby reported a case of 74-year-old male who was admitted to our intensive care unit (ICU) due to heart failure with acute exacerbation. He received endotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilator support treatment. Unfortunately, he developed symptoms of air hunger and tachycardia suddenly. A tooth probably impaction in the trachea was highly suspected according to chest radiography. The bronchoscopy was performed but did not find the tooth. Further investigation using chest CT scan showed a tooth stuck in the lower esophagus instead of trachea. Subsequently, the tooth was removed using a gastrointestinal endoscopy successfully without complication. Thus, the experience of this case highlights that early use of CT scan is helpful to locate foreign material precisely, which can prevent misuse of bronchoscope and save time.

Keywords: Bronchoscopy, computed tomographic scan, tooth, trachea