

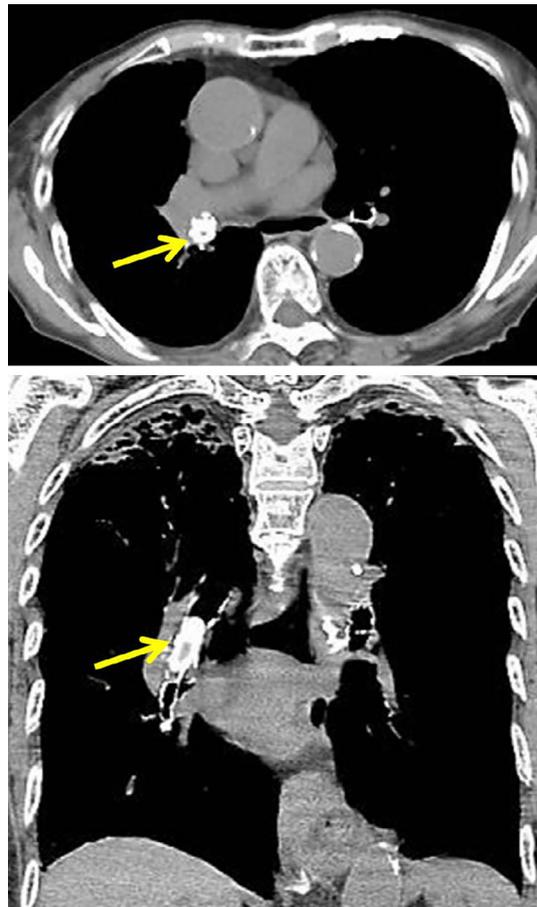
Polycarbophil Calcium Lodged in the Bronchus

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Picture 1.

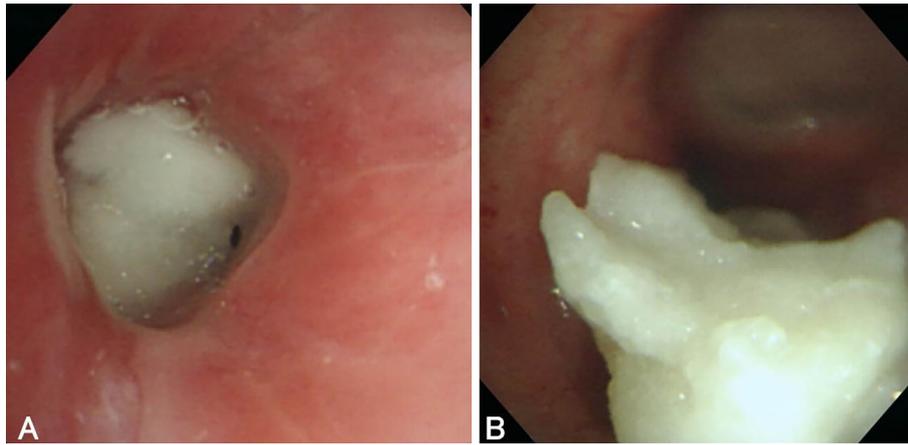
A 101-year-old woman was admitted to our hospital with a 2-day history of productive cough and dyspnea. Chest computed tomography revealed a highly dense, club-like structure with a low-density area inside, 25×10 mm in size, obstructing the lower portion of the truncus intermedius and the right basal bronchus (Picture 1, arrows). Bronchoscopy revealed white-colored, atheromatous material in the truncus

intermedius (Picture 2A), which was successfully retrieved by suction through a fiberscope (Picture 2B). An analysis by Raman spectroscopy (RAMANtouch™) showed that the retrieved material was a tablet of polycarbophil calcium (Colonel®) (Picture 3), which she had been taking for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome. Only a few cases of polycarbophil calcium as airway foreign bodies have been

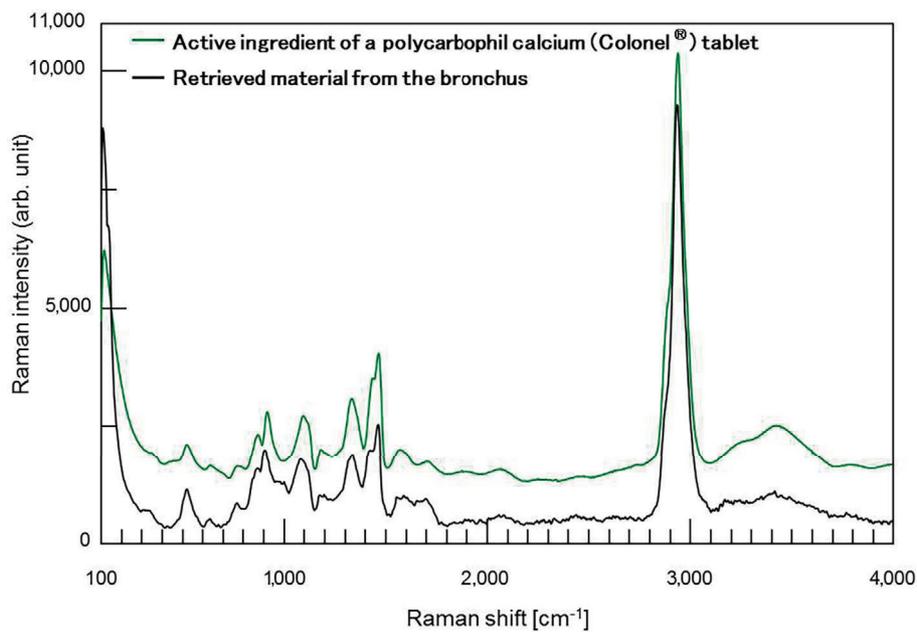
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Picture 2.



Picture 3.

reported to date (1). However, care must be taken to avoid aspiration of this tablet, as it can obstruct the airway due to its water-absorbing and swelling properties (2).

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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