



## A sticking sensation in the throat!

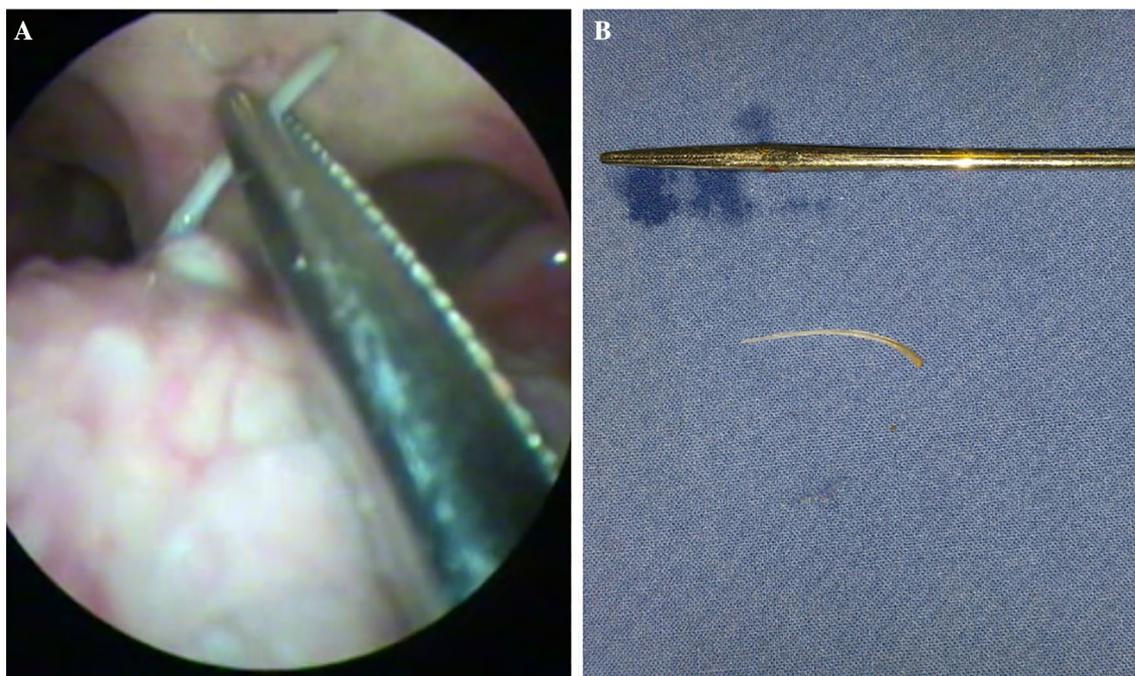
Satvinder Singh Bakshi<sup>1,2</sup>

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### Clinical picture

A 24-year-old man presented with pain while swallowing for 2 h. He ate fish for lunch, after which he developed pain and a prickling sensation in the throat. A video laryngoscopic examination found the fish bone in the base of the tongue (Fig. 1a), which was successfully removed using a forceps (Fig. 1b). The patient recovered without any sequel.

Fish bones are common foreign bodies seen in the upper digestive tract. They are the cause of many emergency department encounters. The most common sites for impaction are: the tonsils, tonsillar pillars, pharyngeal wall or the tongue base [1]. If not removed in a timely fashion, the fish bone may lead to significant morbidity and complications like deep neck infection, perforation of the esophagus, mediastinitis and even death [1, 2]. Generally, a direct inspection



**Fig. 1** a Fish bone seen in the base of tongue b Removed fish bone and forceps

✉ Satvinder Singh Bakshi  
ssbakshi@mgmcri.ac.in

<sup>1</sup> Department of ENT and Head & Neck Surgery, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Pillaiyarkuppam, Pondicherry 607402, India

<sup>2</sup> Pondicherry, India

of the oral cavity will pick up the fish bone in the tonsillar fossa, however, often only an ulcer is seen. Most fish bones are radiolucent, and may not be picked up by plain radiographs [2, 3]. Meticulous examination and endoscopy with rigid or flexible scopes can help localize and remove the fish bone in these patients. It is prudent to take patients with complaints of fish bone stuck in the throat seriously, and perform a thorough clinical examination and follow-up with an endoscopy if required, to prevent the development of complications.

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### Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Statement of human and animal rights** This case image complies with the ethical standards outlined in the journal. It involved the medical

management of a patient as per society guidelines and was in accordance with the ethical standards of the institution. This case was not formal research involving Human participants and/or Animals.

**Informed consent** Informed consent was taken from the patient.

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