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A gallstone impaction at the ampulla of Vater

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A 76-year-old man presented with epigastric pain. Elevated serum amylase (1053 U/L) and a computed tomography scan suggested acute pancreatitis. Conservative treatments improved his symptoms; however, he had right quadrant pain two days later. The elevated biochemical parameters showed total bilirubin of 3.3 mg/dL, aspartate aminotransferase of
263 U/L, alanine aminotransferase of 137 U/L, and gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase of 551 U/L. With a suspicion of biliary pancreatitis, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography was performed. The ampulla of Vater was enlarged and a gallstone was impacted, mimicking laying an egg (FIGURE 1A). The stone, approximately 8 mm in diameter, was extracted easily by the catheter without papillotomy, and the bile and debris were discharged (FIGURE 1B). He improved uneventfully and had cholecystectomy later.

Gallstone impaction at the ampulla of Vater can cause cholangitis and pancreatitis, and stone removal is essential. Documentation of impacted stones has been extremely rare [1]. Depending on the size and site of the impacted stone and the bleeding tendency, endoscopic papillotomy can be indicated for the biliary drainage [2,3].

Figure 1A. A gallstone (arrow) was impaction at the ampulla of Vater.
Figure 1B. The bile and debris were discharged after the impacted stone was extracted.

References.

