

CASE REPORT



# FOREIGN BODIES IN THE DIGESTIVE TRACT

BS. TRẦN THỊ BẢO CHÂU  
Khoa Siêu Âm - MEDIC



**CÔNG TY TNHH Y TẾ HÒA HẢO - PHÒNG KHÁM ĐA KHOA**  
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Hoặc app: Medic Hoa Hao



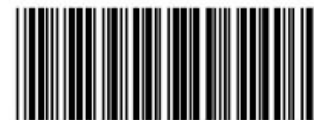
Qr code kết quả chứa bệnh án của quý khách. Medic không chịu trách nhiệm nếu quý khách cung cấp cho người khác.

QRCode kết quả



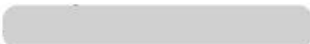
## PHIẾU KHÁM BỆNH

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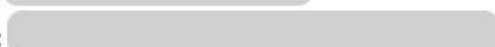
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Họ tên:



Năm sinh: **1997 - Nam**

Địa chỉ:



**TP. Dĩ An Tỉnh Bình Dương**

ĐT:



Nghề nghiệp:

Số thẻ BHYT:

Huyết áp - Mạch: **120/80 - 80 (15:25)** Cao: **164** cm; Nặng: **51** kg; Nhiệt độ: **37°C**

**Lý do đi khám:** Hp(+)

**Lâm sàng:** .

- BỆNH SỬ:

Bệnh LỞ MIỆNG , ĐÃ KHÁM RĂNG, NGOÀI DA, XN Hp(+)

- KHÁM:

+ Tình, tổng trạng tb . Tim: đều . Phổi: trong . Bụng: mềm

+ Cơ quan khác:

**CHỈ ĐỊNH:**

SA Bụng Tổng Quát Màu

**CHỈ ĐỊNH BỔ SUNG:**

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**ĐD. NGÔ MỸ NGA**

*Ngày 26 tháng 11 năm 2022 - 15:30*

**Bác sĩ**

**BS. TRƯƠNG CÔNG THÀNH**

QRCode kết quả



## BỆNH ÁN

KHOA RĂNG HÀM MẶT - PHÒNG: 1



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Họ tên: [REDACTED] Năm sinh: **1997 - Nam**  
Địa chỉ: [REDACTED] **TP. Dĩ An Tỉnh Bình Dương** ĐT: [REDACTED]  
Nghề nghiệp: [REDACTED] Số thẻ BHYT: [REDACTED]

Huyết áp - Mạch: **120/80 - 80 (08:21)** Cao: **164** cm; Nặng: **51** kg; Nhiệt độ: **37°C**

**Lý do đi khám:** lở miệng

**Lâm sàng:** cao răng viêm nướu , viêm lưỡi, có vết loét lưỡi đường kính # 0.5 cm

**Chẩn đoán sơ bộ:** viêm lưỡi dạng áp tơ

### **CHỈ ĐỊNH:**

- **CẬN LÂM SÀNG:**

+ Khám CK Răng Hàm Mặt: viêm lưỡi dạng áp tơ

**Chẩn đoán:** viêm lưỡi dạng áp tơ

LỜI DẶN BS

*Tp.HCM, ngày 26/11/2022 - 08:40*  
Bác sĩ điều trị

QRCode kết quả



\* PKĐK Hoà Hảo không  
\* Tái khám xin mang thẻ

## BỆNH ÁN

KHOA CHUYÊN KHOA DA - PHÒNG: 6



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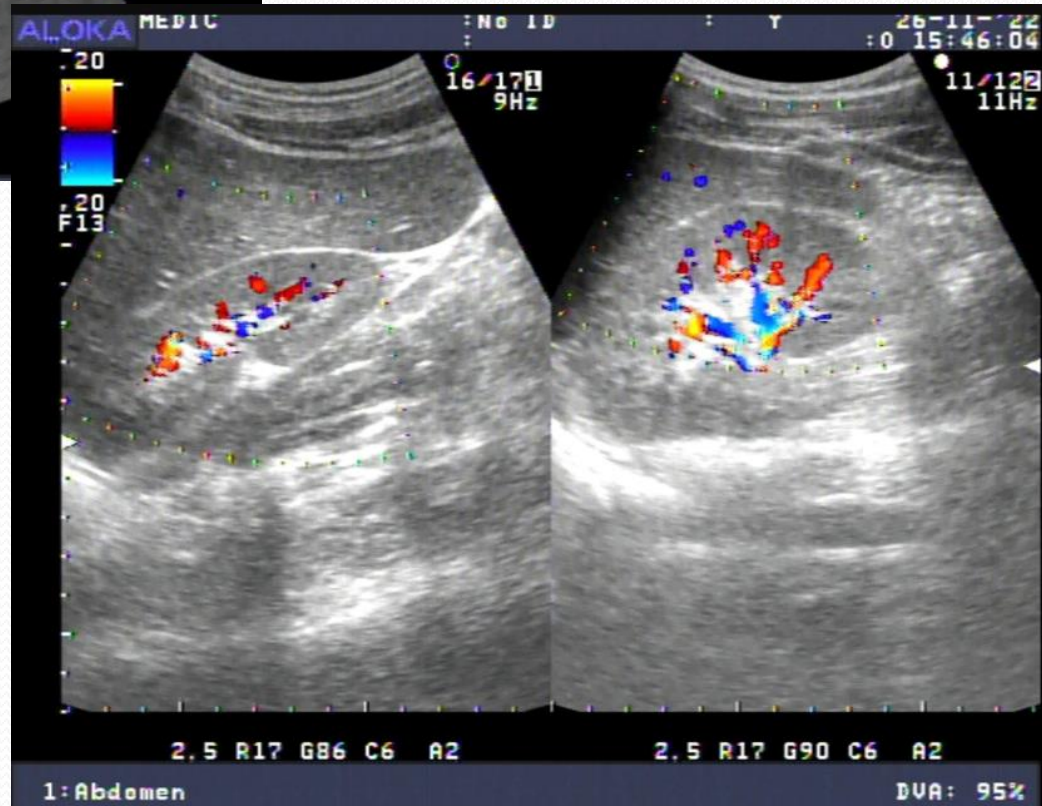
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**Lâm sàng:** lở miệng tái phát thường xuyên nhiều năm



# Siêu âm







136/146  
41Hz

5.0 R17 G90 C6 A2

1: Abdomen



85/102  
38Hz

DVA: 70%

???

5.0 R10 G90 C6 A2

1: Abdomen

DVA: 70%



**--> Bubble Tea Pearls**  
(Patient swallowed food whole )

# DISCUSSION

## Definition

- An ingested foreign body is any object (including food) originating outside the body and ingested via the mouth into the GI tract.
- Foreign bodies may be accidentally or intentionally swallowed.
- Foreign bodies may cause no symptoms or may cause symptoms depending on where they become stuck.

### Foreign Body in the Gastrointestinal Tract (X-Ray)

This x-ray shows a coin that was swallowed by a young child.



## Foreign Bodies in the Digestive Tract

- Foreign bodies may be accidentally swallowed. Children may swallow **small, round foods** (such as grapes, peanuts, or candies), which may become stuck. In addition, curious infants and toddlers often accidentally swallow **a wide variety of inedible objects** (such as coins and disk or button batteries), some of which become stuck in the esophagus. People who wear dentures, older people, and intoxicated adults are at risk of accidentally swallowing **inadequately chewed food** (particularly meat such as steak or hot dogs), which may become stuck in the esophagus.
- Sometimes foreign bodies are swallowed purposely, as when smugglers swallow balloons, packages, or vials filled with illegal drugs to evade detection.
- A variety of swallowed objects can become lodged in the stomach or intestines. Some foreign bodies cause obstruction or perforation. Diagnosis is made by imaging or endoscopy. Some foreign bodies can be removed endoscopically.
- Of the foreign bodies that reach the stomach, 80 to 90% pass spontaneously through the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, 10 to 20% require nonoperative intervention, and  $\leq 1\%$  require surgery. Thus, conservative management is appropriate for most blunt objects in asymptomatic patients. However, **objects > 6 cm in length or objects > 2.5 cm in diameter** rarely pass through the stomach (1).



# An X-Ray Showing 100 Bubble Tea Pearls in a Teen's Abdomen Has Doctors Very Confused

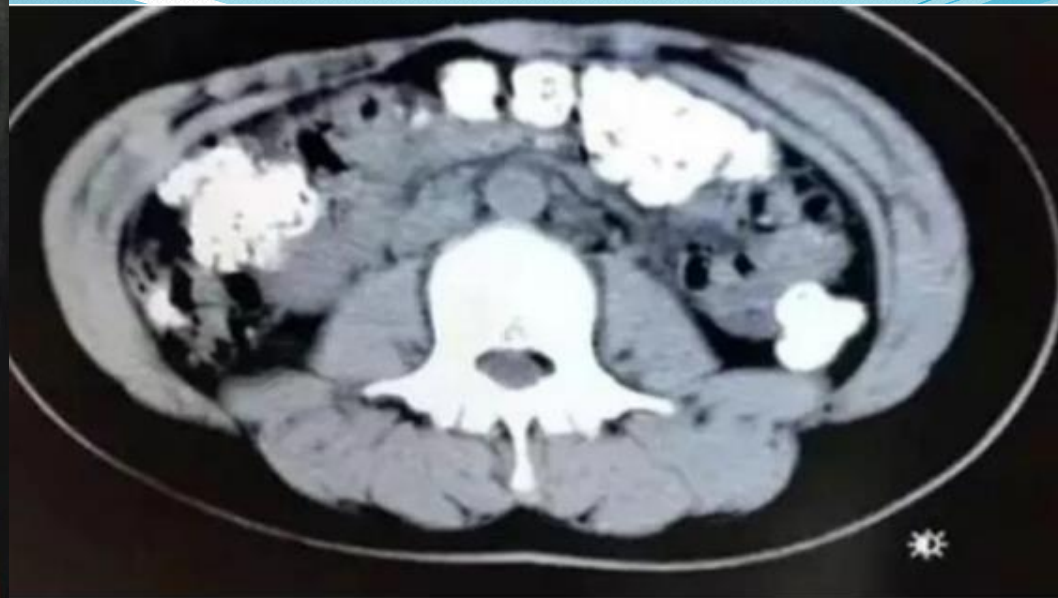
News

By [Rachael Rettner](#) published June 13, 2019

The 14-year-old girl, who lives in Zhejiang, China, said she had been constipated for five days, wasn't able to eat and was experiencing stomach pain. A CT scan revealed that there were around 100 "unusual spherical shadows" in the girl's abdomen.

After speaking with the teen about what she'd eaten recently, **doctors concluded that the unusual shadows on the scan were actually undigested bubble tea pearls**, which are ordinarily made from **tapioca starch**. Although the girl claimed to have consumed just one bubble tea five days earlier, her doctors said she would have needed to consume much more than this in order to cause her symptoms.

Eating a lot of tapioca balls could "for sure" cause constipation, said Dr. Lina Felipez, a pediatric gastroenterologist at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami.




Doctors ordered urgent CT scans of the young girl. Picture: Shaoxing News

\* The physician discovered more than 100 tiny “granular shadows” dotted throughout the teenager’s digestive tract — from her stomach, through her intestines and down to her anus.

\* She was prescribed a strong laxative.

What Dr Zhang found inside his patient left him stunned. Picture: Shaoxing News

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- And that's where things get interesting. According to healthcare providers who looked into the case of the teenager in China, tapioca and other ingredients typically found in bubble tea pearls wouldn't show up on an X-ray or CT scan. There had to be something unusual in the pearls the girl consumed for them to show on the scan.
  - Vladimir Kushnir, MD, a specialist in gastroenterology at Washington University Physicians in St. Louis, Mo., told *Health* that an indigestible additive may have been in the pearls. Still, it wasn't clear what kind of additive that would be.

- The GP, who declines to be named, paints a graphic picture: “The X-ray shows that the patient’s body is full of faeces. **Pearls are made of tapioca starch, which is glue-like.** The pearls that are not digested well combine with other foods consumed and cause faeces to become sticky, which leads to partial or total bowel obstruction.”
- But don’t throw away your drink and swear off bubble tea forever. Our GP chirps that the occasional bubble tea is harmless: “Every food is the same. **Don’t eat too much and you’ll be okay.**”

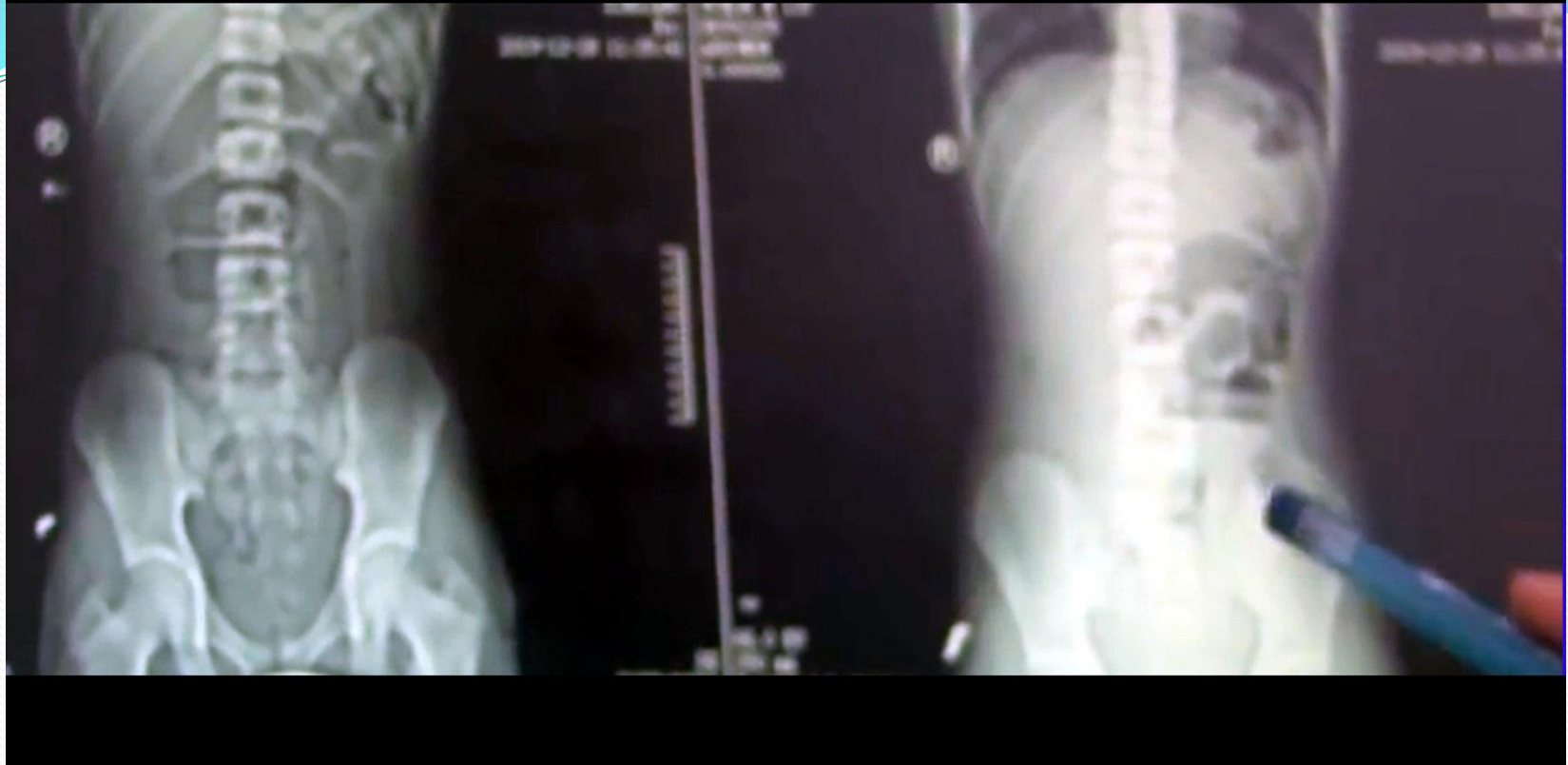


# Bubble tea causes blockage in teen's bowels: report

A teen boy in China was rushed to the emergency room after he drank two cups of bubble tea and was unable to digest the starchy tapioca balls, a report says. The teen, who was not identified, was diagnosed with a bowel obstruction and underwent emergency surgery, according to AsiaWire.

“Around 3 a.m. while I was on call, a 13-year-old boy was brought in with sudden abdominal pain,” Dr. Zhang Haiyang, the teen’s doctor at First Affiliated Hospital of Xinxiang Medical University, told the news outlet. “X-rays pointed to bowel obstruction. While inspecting his intestines, we discovered two solid objects, one larger and one smaller. These two objects were causing his obstruction.”

Haiyang said according to his patient’s history, the teen did not chew on the bubbles in his tea, rather he swallowed them whole. He said he had two cups of bubble tea and drank them the same way four days apart.



Doctors found two objects obstructing the teen's bowels, which they learned were tapioca balls. (AsiaWire)

"It's therefore very likely that the tapioca pearls stuck together, causing his bowel obstruction," Haiyang told AsiaWire.

The medical team observed that the objects were soft and could be crushed rather than removed surgically, so about two days after the procedure the teen was able to pass them through his stool.





## Adolescent Male With Abdominal Pain

[Teng-Yao Yang, MD](#) • [Kuo-Chih Chen, MD](#) • [Chee-Fah Chong, MSc, MD](#)

A 15-year-old boy presented to emergency department (ED) with abdominal pain without fever for 2 days. Local peritoneal signs were found over the McBurney point. Laboratory findings showed a WBC count of 22,800/ $\mu\text{L}$  and c-reactive protein level of 2.06 mg/dL (normal <0.5 mg/dL). Abdominal ultrasonography failed to visualize the appendix. However, it detected multiple marblelike objects with hypoechoic rims and hyperechoic centers (Figure 1) over the epigastrium. Abdominal computed tomography (CT) showed an engorged appendix, which confirmed the diagnosis of acute appendicitis. The CT imaging also incidentally revealed multiple small round hyperdensities in the distended stomach (Figure 2A, arrowheads).



**Figure 1: Ultrasonography revealing distinct marble-like objects with hypoechoic rims and hyperechoic centers**



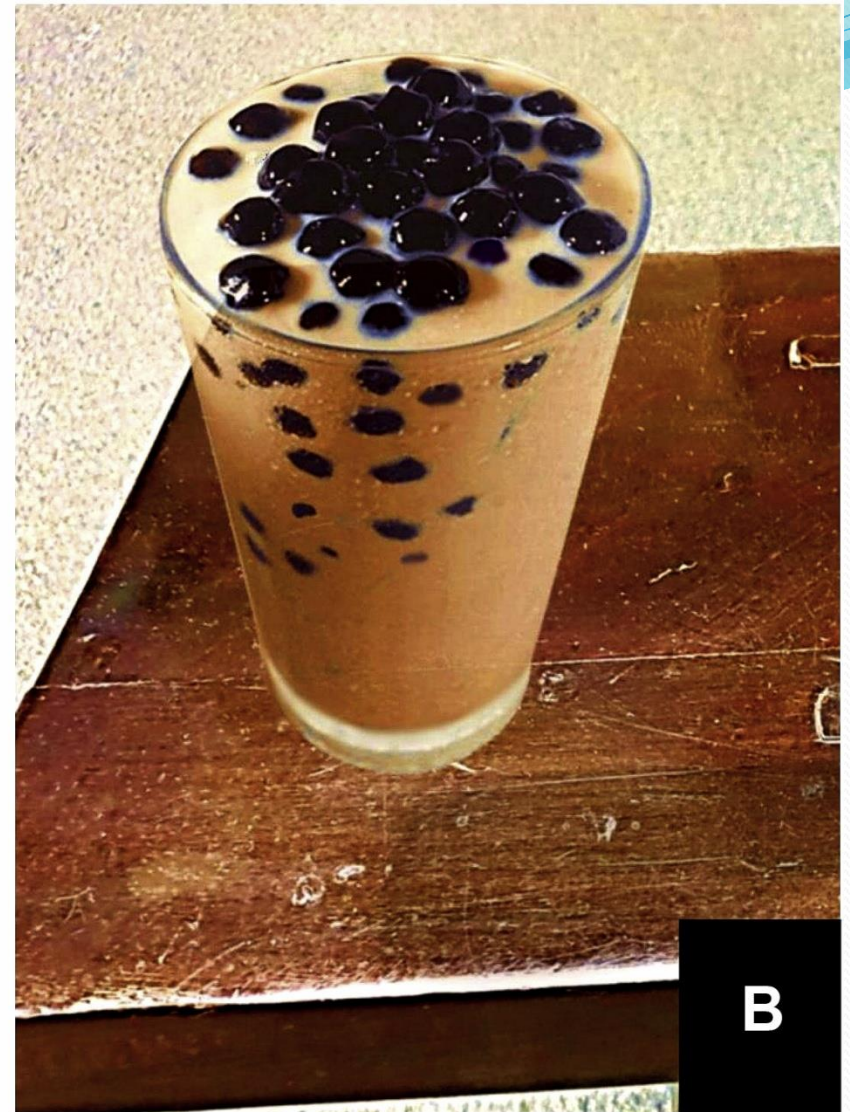
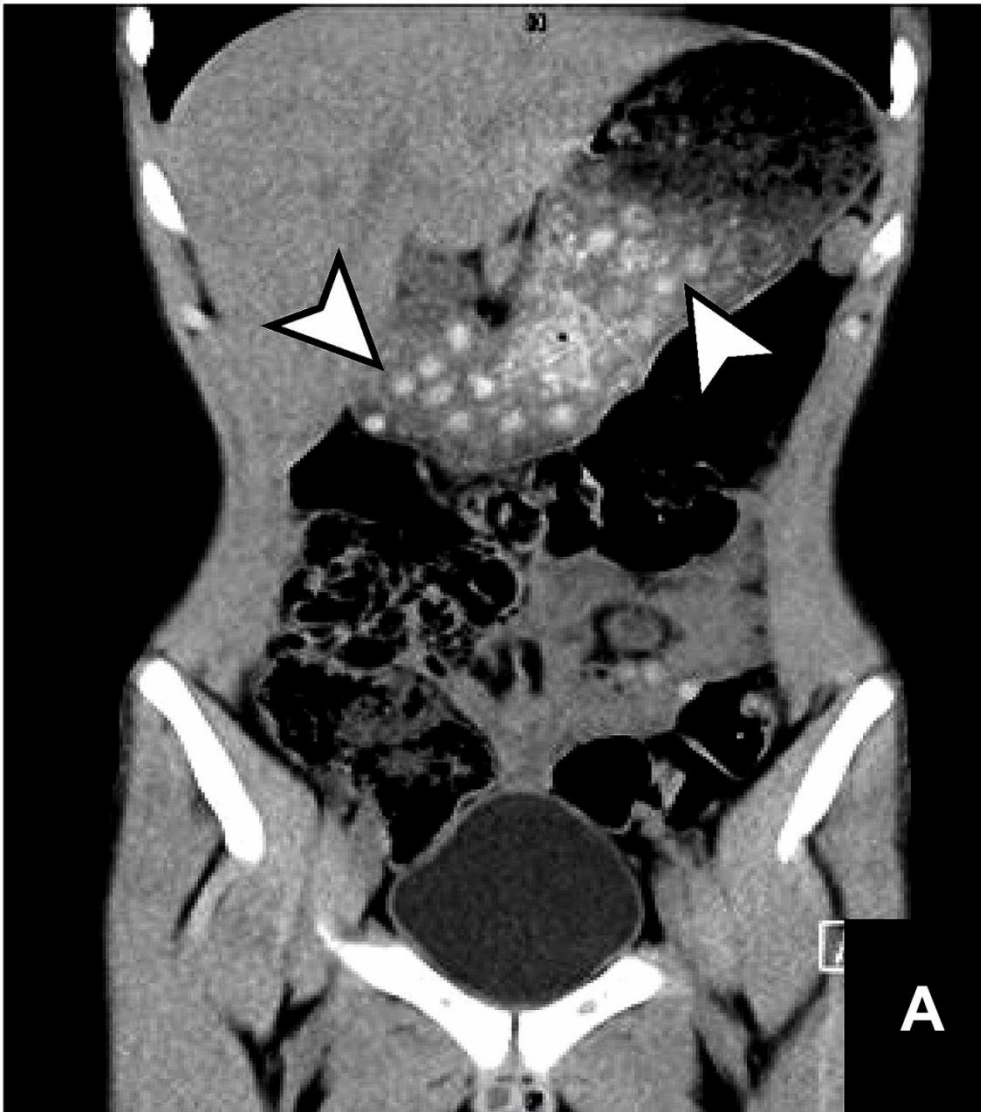


Figure 2: Reconstructed nonenhanced abdominal CT revealing multiple small round hyperdensities (arrowheads) in the distended stomach.

# Diagnosis

*Tapioca pearls of boba tea in the stomach.* The patient had ingested bubble tea ([Figure 2B](#)) the night before the ED visit. Bubble tea (also called boba tea) is a traditional Taiwanese beverage made with tea, milk, flavorings, and edible tapioca “bubbles” or “pearls.”<sup>1</sup>

CT images of tapioca pearls appear as well-defined scattered spherical hyperdensities, usually located inside the stomach ([Figure 2A](#)) or duodenum.<sup>2</sup> Tapioca pearls are less hyperdense than fecaliths or appendicoliths. To our knowledge, there is no literature describing an ultrasonographic finding of tapioca pearls. In our case, ultrasonographic imaging of the tapioca pearls revealed distinct marblelike objects with hypoechoic rims and hyperechoic centers. Acoustic shadows could also be found, depending on the echo densities of the pearls ([Figure 1](#)).

Acute appendicitis was the definitive cause of abdominal pain in this case. The ultrasonographic findings of tapioca pearls in the stomach (scattered marblelike objects) can be misleading for inexperienced health care providers.





## Poly Pearls in the Stomach

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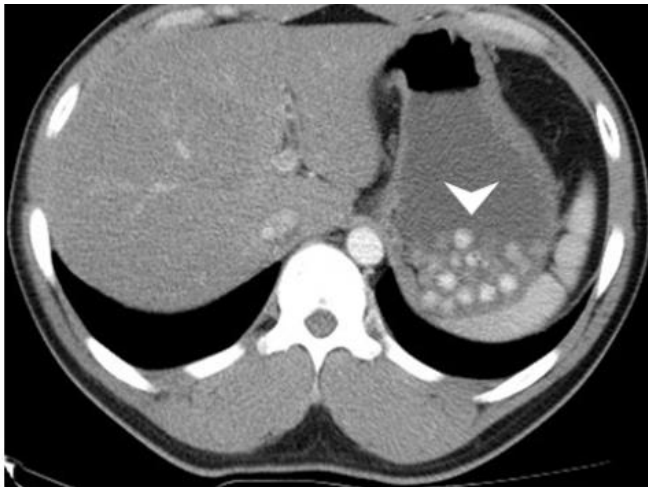
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## Clinical Description

A 23-year-old man bumped into a car while riding a scooter, and suffered from multiple abrasion wounds. At our emergency room, his complaint right abdominal pain, but denied loss of consciousness after the accident. He had neither medical history nor congenital disease. Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma (FAST) showed mild free fluid accumulation in the Morrison pouch. Computed Tomography (CT) scan demonstrated accumulation of small round hyperdensities in a distended saccular structure in the upper abdomen (Figure 1a). He recalled that he had gulped down “bubble tea”, which was made with tapioca particles, sugar and water (Figure 1b). The tapioca particles exhibited a CT density between 46 - 221 Hounsfield units, mainly in the stomach, and few of them could be traced down in the duodenum and jejunum. His condition was stable under conservative treatment and was discharged four days later.



**Figure 1a:** Axial computed tomography (CT) demonstrated accumulation of small round hyperdensities in a distended saccular structure in the upper abdomen. The tapioca particles exhibited a CT density between 46 - 221 Hounsfield units, and few of them could be traced down in the duodenum and jejunum.



**Figure 1b:** “Bubble tea” drink made with tapioca particles (arrows), sugar, and water.



# Bubble tea addiction lands teen in coma



**Lifestyle Team**

10 June 2020 · 2-min read




A teenage girl addicted to bubble tea landed herself in a coma for five days after having two cups a day for a whole month.

The 18-year-old, whose name was not reported, has been given the nickname 'Bubble Tea Girl' after her doctor revealed she recorded blood sugar levels roughly 25 times higher than normal.

According to her mum, the girl was addicted to sugary drinks including bubble tea - also known as boba tea - and cola, spending more than 100 RMB (\$20) on the beverages every day for a whole month.

Emergency department medic Lu Yiming said the girl - who weighed 125kg - fell into a diabetic coma caused by hyperglycemia, or dangerously high levels of blood sugar.



She was found unconscious by family members, having also experienced symptoms including thirst, nausea and frequent urination in the lead up - all signs of the related complication known as diabetic ketoacidosis or DKA.

The girl was put on a ventilator and haemodialysis before finally waking from her coma five days later. On June 1 her condition was considered stable, and she was transferred to Nanxiang Hospital for follow-up care.

By the time she was discharged from Ruijin Hospital, she had lost 35kgs, reports said. The teenager also promised never to drink bubble tea again.



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# THANK YOU!

