

February 10, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8138-review.doc).

Title: X-Ray Detection of Ingested Non-Metallic Foreign Bodies

Author: Miguel Saps, John Rosen, Jacob Ecanow

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Clinical Pediatrics*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 8138

We appreciate the feedback from reviewers that the manuscript is well-written and should be considered for publication. The manuscript has been improved according to the reviewer suggestions as follows:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) A short running title is provided on the title page (< 6 words).

(2) More information is added about water-equivalent phantoms (WEP). The reviewer correctly states that pediatricians may not be familiar with this technology and would benefit from additional descriptive text. Text added includes the statement "WEPs are composite materials that allow simulation and testing of radiographic techniques without human radiation exposure."

(3) It is not clear that "chosen items are known almost not to be detectable by conventional XR". Some of the nonmetal items were visible on XR and some were not. It is an excellent point that other imaging techniques including MRI, CT, and ultrasound potentially identify nonmetal ingested objects. However, the cost of MRI, and radiation with CT, and level of expertise needed with ultrasound compared to low-cost, low-radiation, simple and widely available x-ray may limit the utility of these alternate imaging studies. Text is added to the manuscript addressing other imaging modalities and their potential disadvantages in comparison to x-ray.

(4) The reviewer recommends addition of a diagnostic algorithm to the proposed registry of foreign body radioopacity. We appreciate this suggestion and agree that a

diagnostic algorithm would increase applicability of data found in our study. However, we do not believe the available data is sufficient to form recommendations at this time. Other studies and professional organizations have proposed algorithms for diagnosis and treatment of ingested foreign bodies, and these generally include an initial XR on evaluation of suspected or observed foreign body ingestion. Our study suggests that interpretation of these x-rays should be conducted with appropriate caution and consideration of ingested object type.

(5) We appreciate that the reviewer notes we have a “good model” but that it is “not very useful in practice”. This is certainly a consideration, but the model has utility in nonclinical settings such as in our study, and this has value as it adds scientific knowledge that indirectly may affect clinical practice. The model could be easily recreated by clinicians and used to guide their decision-making processes.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for considering publication of our manuscript in the *World Journal of Clinical Pediatrics*.

Sincerely yours,

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