

## 39805-Answering Reviewers

Firstly we want to thank the editor and reviewers who have taken into consideration our manuscript. We are glad for your eminent comments, we consider useful to increase the authority of our article.

We have revised the entire article, in particular:

- 1) Our translator and interpreter (Lo Conti Lucia) revised English style and spelling, that we thanks a lot. She is cited in the Acknowledgment section.
- 2) We have prepared the “audio core tip”
- 3) We have reformatted all the reference numbers as you requested: <sup>[1]</sup>
- 4) We have removed the section “Materials and methods” and “Results”. Since we have done a review of the literature, which was considered useful and interesting by reviewers, we have put them in “Discussion” section as sub-paragraph. We hope it would met your consent.
- 5) We have write, as you request the section “Article Highlights”.
- 6) We have revised the caption of figures and merged the two figures in ones.
- 7) We have revised the English of the table 1
- 8) We have revised the references section adding PubMed citation numbers and DOI citation to the reference list and list all authors.

Answers for Reviewer’s comments:

For Reviewer 1:

Thank you for considering our manuscript. We have correct all grammatical errors. We retain useful our case for its unique (first case in literature of rectal perforation by a blister pill packs) and for the review of the literature we have conducted. It can help our colleagues to take into consideration the suspicion this type of gastrointestinal perforation in a context of sepsis in mental impairment patients.

For Reviewer 2

Thank you for your eminent comments. Thank you for your congratulations. We have revised the English style.

For Reviewer 3

Thank you for your eminent comments.

We have inserted in the introduction the differences between BPP and PTP.

... BPPs are commonly used for drugs giving a barrier protection for storage life and preservation from the damage. In some countries BPP is known as a push through pack (PTP). PTP present two properties: 1) the cover foil is hard but breaks easily, the drug can be pressed out easily by breaking the cover foil; 2) the semi-rigid formed cavity can be folded to dispense the drug by means of pressing it out with thumb, breaking the cover foil with a fingernail will make the pressing out easier...

For Reviewer 4

Thank you for your eminent comments. We have revised the English style also in table as your suggestions.

For Reviewer 5

Thank you for your eminent comments. We have revised the manuscript as your suggestions. In the discussion section, we have inserted:

...In fact, our case underline the real difficulty to reach the correct early diagnosis due to not specific and vague symptoms. Moreover, patient was initially treated by a sepsis suspected from different origin out of abdomen (~~to be not originating from the abdomen~~). Certainly an early CT scan would be has helped to reach the diagnosis, but anyway it was retained not justified when the patient arrived to the observation of the emergency department: in fact they had excluded the acute abdominal perforation at the moment the patient arrived to their observation with an X-ray of the abdomen and the thorax. Probably the general outcome could be different, but obviously is very hard to assess it, because the patient's conditions were very critical from the first day of the admission and severe abdominal sepsis in a critical ill patient, like ours, rarely gives few chances to survive...

We are not so sure that an early surgical management would improve the outcome of this critical ill patient due to the severe abdominal sepsis.

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Reviewer 1

thank you for your submission. well written - with some grammatical errors which need to be amended. the level of evidence is low, as with all case reports, and, although the authors report this

to be first case of rectal perforation with blister packs, there is plenty of literature regarding rectal/intestinal perforations with FBs in general, particularly in the context of diverticular disease. in addition, the confounding factor in this case of mental impairment, leading to delay in diagnosis, is also well reported. for these reasons i would not recommend this for publication. thank you.

#### Reviewer 2

The accidental blister pack (BPP) ingestion is probably an underestimated phenomenon. Even if there is currently no diffuse statistical study on this topic, it seems logical to predict that accidental ingestion of BBPs in the elderly will increase steadily. In fact, due to the constant aging of the population, the number of elderly people who daily take many drugs continuously increases. Moreover, these elderly patients cumulate many risk factors of inadvertent foreign body ingestion. This is an impressive case report with outstanding photo documentation and review of the literature. The English style may be slightly improved. Congratulations for the very good report.

#### Reviewer 3

This is an interesting case report of rectal perforation caused by inadvertent ingestion of a blister pill pack (BPP). The quality of the paper and literature review are quite sufficient. I have only one minor comment. Please indicate the difference of BPP and press through package (PTP). Several case reports regarding intestinal perforation due to inadvertent ingestion of PTP has been reported. I confirmed that no rectal perforation case is involved in previous PTP series.

#### Reviewer 4

This is an interesting report describing the first case of rectal perforation following the ingestion of a blister pill pack. The English language must be strongly revised throughout the manuscript with the assistance of a native English speaker. In Table 1, "sex" must be replaced by "gender" and "mortality" by "exitus". Arrows must be inserted in Figures 1 and 2 to guide the readers.

#### Reviewer 5

Thank you for your article. Can the authors comment on why there was a delay in getting imaging study and institution in early management of a septic patient. Also, this needs to be highlighted strongly in the case as early management may have resulted in a better overall outcome for this condition.