

Knotted nasogastric tube

Ms. Rupali Sawant

MRCs ENT Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge, U.K.

Abstract: 32 year old lady came to accident and emergency department with drug overdose. Wide bore nasogastric tube was inserted for gastric lavage. While removing the nasogastric tube there was a resistance.(1) It was removed under direct vision by otolaryngologist. The nasogastric tube was knotted.

Keywords: Gastric lavage, nasogastric tube, rapid removal of tube, knotted tube.

I. Introduction

Nasogastric tubes are used for enteral feeding, gastric lavage. It is very important to secure right position and length of these tubes. It is also important to pull it slowly while removing the nasogastric tube. 32 year old lady came to accident and emergency department with drug overdose. Wide bore, 14 French nasogastric tube was inserted for gastric lavage. Once she was symptomatically better, the attempt was made to remove nasogastric tube. While removing the nasogastric tube there was a resistance around nasopharynx. (2)The referral was made to otolaryngologist for removal of the tube. It was removed under direct vision, using local anaesthetic and nasal decongestant. When removed the nasogastric tube was found knotted and the knot was getting stuck at posterior choana.(3)



Fig.1 Knotted nasogastric tube which was removed under direct vision.

II. Discussion

For gastric lavage the nasogastric tube needs to be put in stomach.

The length of tube pushed in is longer.

In stomach, the longer tube gets coiled.

If it is removed rapidly, those coils get entangled amongst each other and a knot is formed and it becomes tighter as it is pulled further.

If it is pulled slowly with a steady pace, no knot would get formed and this complication can be prevented.

References

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