

AUTHOR'S REPLY

Dear Sir,

The writer has raised a valid point that routine postoperative imaging could have detected iatrogenic foreign bodies in most of the described situations.⁽¹⁾ In our country, the incidence of iatrogenic foreign bodies in the urinary bladder is higher as compared to that in developed countries; the possible reasons could be that teaching and private hospitals in big cities have trained staff with modern facilities and standard protocols are followed. However, facilities are lacking in some of the peripheral hospitals, and hence, the chances of overlooking minute details are significantly higher. Moreover, as the literacy rate in smaller towns is low, patient compliance tends to be poor. Many patients report late, after symptoms have reached intolerable levels. Some of those with forgotten stents inside the bladder are illiterate and do not understand the importance of timely removal of these foreign objects.

In our case series, we found three women who had copper Ts and one woman with a rubber stick in her urinary bladder; all these women came from villages. The incidence of complications also tends to be higher in remote areas, as untrained staff is involved in providing family planning services.

The presence of foreign bodies in the urinary bladder has always generated interest among readers. Case reports and articles on this subject have frequently been published in various journals.^(2,3) Incidences of iatrogenic foreign bodies in the urinary bladder are still being reported, even by reputable centres.⁽⁴⁾ With proper precautions and postoperative imaging, the incidence of iatrogenic foreign bodies may be reduced significantly; however, it cannot be completely eliminated due to the possibilities of human error. We believe that the issue of iatrogenic foreign bodies is very much relevant and will continue to appear in the medical literature. It will remind us to be vigilant in order to avoid such happenings in future.

Yours sincerely,

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