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Trichobezoar in a patient with sickle cell anemia: A pain crisis is not always to be blamed

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Trichobezoar, a ball of hair in the stomach is an under-diagnosed problem that should be considered in patients presenting with an upper abdominal pain and mass, weight loss and bowel obstruction especially in young girls with an underlying psychiatric disorder or mental retardation. A trichobezoar extending into the intestine is designated “Rapunzel syndrome”. Patients with sickle cell disease are susceptible to experiencing pica including in rare occasions, trichophagia that could lead to formation of a trichobezoar, resulting in serious abdominal complications which are likely to be confused with ordinary vaso-occlusive pain crises. Here we present the rare case of gastric trichobezoar in a 9 year old girl with sickle cell anemia who was initially taken for a painful crisis.

Biography

Hosameldin Abdelhady Hasan Mohammed is currently a Consultant and Lecturer of Radio-diagnosis, Faculty of Medicine, Assiut University and Hospital.

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