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Swallow plastic fork tine

Help my baby swallowed a piece of plastic forked. I was eating with it, and he was just playing showing me how he does it, and then I heard a œcrackœ and out of his mouth came the fork without chicken and with a missing corner... What do I do now? I tried to get the piece out of his mouth with my finger but he was too fast. He swallowed with the chicken. It is about half a centimetre of the tip of the fork. It thing is big. He looks fine, but I am scared that it is going to do something to his little stomach... Should I make him vomit? Should I call ER?Helhel Should I just wait until it comes out of his butt? I know... I am terrible mother... Just stupid really!!!! I didnœ t think his teeth could do that! Swallowing a non-edible object seems a rather common thing to do, have you ever experienced something like this? Many people seem to search on the Internet "What can happen if you swallow a piece of plastic fork?", so this is a rather common concern. You shouldn't worry too much if you swallowed a piece (or a tine) of a plastic fork, because most of the times, it will naturally pass through. There are not many reported cases of adults visiting the emergency after swallowing a piece of plastic of a fork. Perhaps because most of them, have been advised by their doctors that the material will pass through. It is interesting however, to observe a series of report from an American hospital showing the number of patients that in year 2010 have visited the premises because of swallowed flatware. The patients are children, aged between 9 months and 4 years, and have all been dismissed without treatment. So chances are that if an adult swallow a piece of flatware, the outcome will be the same. Some say that the risk of intestine perforation is very low if non-existent because the intestine retracts in case of sharp objects. Hence, it is not too dangerous to swallow a piece of plastic fork, but as this item is sharp, the risk can never be excluded. If the tine punctuates the intestine or stomach, it can cause peritonitis, which is a life-threatening infection if not cured. Another problem related to plastic items is that they are not always visible in x-rays. So are we sure that there will not be consequences? Swallowing a piece of plastic fork is not completely risk-free Well, even if it is not that risky to swallow a piece of plastic fork, there are things that can go wrong as the experience of Mr Gardner testifies.Mr Gardner rushed into hospital in 2012, because he vomited blood and had stomach cramps. Doctors feared the worst, until a camera inspection revealed the incredibly unexpected cause of the symptoms. You won't believe it, but Mr Gardner has a whole plastic fork sitting in his stomach! He accidentally swallowed the fork over 10 years before and doctors advised him that it would pass through naturally, so he didn't need to worry. To extract the fork the patient underwent a 45 minutes operation, which doctor Hanis Shiwani commented "The fork was impacting on the stomach wall, causing an ulcer which was bleeding. I had to remove that part of the stomach and I was glad when it wasn't cancerous." Doctors said that they have never seen before a foreign object lasting in someone's body for so long, because normally people get ill immediately. Another unfortunate story is the one of Mr David Edmiston who, in 2010, unintentionally swallowed a piece of plastic fork whilst having lunch at work, the incident brought serious consequences, he had to stay in hospital for a couple of weeks and most of the time was spent in intensive care, the object punctuated his intestine, colon and other organs. He had a very hard time after the unlucky event. What should you do if you swallow a piece of plastic fork? We suggest to seek always help from the doctors, go to the A&E even if the chances that a tine might pierce your organs are very slim, go for a check-up for your peace of mind as well. They will probably tell you that the tine will pass through without the need of any treatment. To avoid that this sort of accident happens you can opt for stronger and more resistant disposable cutlery, at least when you have the option of using your own flatware. The danger has passed, I think. Maybe. And, by passed, I mean literally passed through my GI tract. Not that I checked. Then again, this entire anxiety-inducing, loss-of-sleep and possibly life-threatening episode may have been a fork-induced false alarm (one of the five worst types of false alarms). Then again, it could be lodged in my heart. Or liver. Let me explain... I was at a local Central Ohio restaurant recently, one of those healthy, build-it-yourself places where you put kale, carrots and other nutritious stuff on top of purple rice. I was dining alone, was halfway through my meal and eating way too fast, as I'm prone to do. Suddenly, I look down at my plastic fork and notice one of the tines was gone. Snapped off at the base. "That's strange," I thought to myself. "I wonder what happened to it?" I looked on the tray, around the tray, on my lap, on the floor ... and in my rice bowl. Nothing. No plastic tine. Just kale, carrots and the protein of my choosing. "Oh no, it couldn't be, could it? No way. I would have felt something going down, wouldn't I? Yeah, I would have felt something sharp and pointy. There's no way I could have swallowed it. No way. This fork came with a missing tine and I'm just now noticing it. That has to be it." Then again, I do eat really fast. Like super fast. I barely chew. And the tine is small and thin and all plasticity and ... holy crap. Suddenly, it felt like there was something stuck in the back of my throat. Something small. And sharp. And it hurt. I tried coughing it up. Nothing. I tried again. Louder, harder. Several people looked over at me. A couple look worried, others looked annoyed. "Sorry to bother everyone, I may have just swallowed a fork tine and could die! Is anyone here a doctor? A GI specialist?" Nevertheless, despite the fact that my life may have been in peril, I continued eating. Hey, where I grew up you don't waste food. But I ate a little slower and more carefully, and drank a lot of water. And tried to put the possibility that I had swallowed the tine out of my mind. But I couldn't. The brain is funny that way. I began to feel discomfort in my throat and then in my neck. "Holy crap, it's already lodged in my neck, it's going to pierce my jugular and I'll bleed out. Right here in this upscale and healthy, fast-casual restaurant." Later that day and for the next few, I felt tingling and stabbing sensations at various points along my GI tract as the tine worked its way through me. If I had swallowed it. The pains seemed to get worse and make themselves known in more and more place the more I thought about it. It be lodged in my heart at this very moment, about to poke through a ventricle. And I love my ventricles. My next mistake was looking up "what happens when you swallow something sharp" on the internet. A woman who swallowed a toothpick developed nausea, vomiting and low blood pressure. Turns out the toothpick was lodged in her liver and caused an abscess and blood poisoning. A doctor on a website that seemed legitimate suggested a trip to the ER after swallowing something sharp and pointy, like a toothpick. Seems a lot of people swallow toothpicks. Not so much with plastic fork tines. The ER? No way, I have crappy health insurance. It would cost a fortune, what with all those tests, scans and operations to remove the tine lodged in my liver. And I'm not even sure I swallowed the damn tine. It would be totally embarrassing to go the ER, tell them what I think I may have swallowed, and for them to then tell me - after hours of tests, all the while wearing that humiliating gown that's impossible to tie properly - that I hadn't swallowed anything other than kale and carrots. I'll wait it out a few days and see what happens. I'll check to see if there's blood in my urine or a searing pain in my gut that just won't go away. Or my heart or liver. And then, maybe, probably, I'll go to the ER. I might have a Groupon somewhere. Maybe I should I ask Susan what to do. She was, after all, a nurse for 25 years and knows all about anatomy. Nah, she'll get all worried, and then lecture me about mindful eating. "You eat so fast, do you even taste or enjoy your food? No wonder you swallowed a fork tine." It's a couple weeks later and ... I'm fine. I think. I hope. I'm pretty sure I didn't swallow a plastic fork tine (knock on wood). Then again, from time to time (tine to tine?) it does feel like something's going on in my gut and my throat is a little scratchy. And my chest has been sore the past few days. And, since I started writing this post, a new pain in my liver has developed. Why did I have to go and Google it? And, how long did it take that lady who swallowed the toothpick to develop all those terrible symptoms and get an abscessed liver? A week? A month? Even more importantly, did it kill her? I better Google her and find out. Then again, maybe that's not such a good idea. Ignorance is bliss, especially when it comes to the mysterious case of the disappearing fork tine. Lee Gardner, from Barnsley, told doctors he had completely forgotten swallowing itThe plastic fork was intact and sitting at the bottom of his tummyIt has now been removed and doctors say he is lucky not to be seriously ill By Martin Robinson Published: 10:49 BST, 17 August 2012 | Updated: 14:50 BST, 17 August 2012 When Lee Gardner rushed to hospital after vomiting blood and suffering debilitating stomach cramps he feared the worst.But doctors in Barnsley were left stunned when they discovered a nine-inch fork in the man's stomach and incredibly it had been there for more than a decade.The baffled medics were even more confused when they found the piece of cutlery as Mr Gardner, 40, admitted he had completely forgotten swallowing it. Incredible: Doctors were left stunned when they discovered a nine-inch fork in Lee Gardner's stomach A decade ago doctors had said that the whole fork would pass through his system naturally, so he assumed that it had gone.But in fact it was still completely intact and sitting at the bottom of his tummy. He has now made a full recovery.'I had been vomiting blood, and when they were looking inside me with the camera the doctor said: "Are you sure you've not swallowed anything?"', he said.'I said no but when he said: "Are you sure, I can see prongs of what appears to be a fork?" - I remembered accidentally swallowing one years and years ago.'I couldn't believe it. I have never had any problems with my stomach, except once a couple of years ago I remember thinking I felt like something had lodged when I bent over awkwardly. Painful: Lee rushed to hospital in severe pain, and bizarrely had forgotten he swallowed a whole piece of cutlery 'But the advice when I swallowed it from the doctor was that it would just pass through my system and as that was so many years before I really didn't think it could be the fork 'Mr Gardner remembered messing about with a plastic fork in his mouth years earlier - when he gagged and accidentally swallowed it.Doctors at Barnsley Hospital used a camera to look inside his stomach for a cause when they stumbled across the 'mystery' object.Images showed the fork head was resting in Lee's stomach with the handle protruding into his small bowel.Its prongs, called tines, had pressed on the stomach lining causing an ulcer that led to the bleeding. Grim: A camera found the fork in his tummy, which was causing him serious damage Consultant general surgeon, Hanis Shiwani, was asked to take a look by his baffled colleagues.He decided it would be too dangerous to try to extract the fork without surgery and carried out a 45-minute operation to cut open his stomach.He said: 'The fork was impacting on the stomach wall, causing an ulcer which was bleeding. I had to remove that part of the stomach and I was glad when it wasn't cancerous.'Technically it was not a challenging operation but it was exciting because it is not something we have ever done before.'We know that coins, nails, pins and batteries are common things people swallow but not a nine-inch fork. I jokingly said that we should contact the Guinness Book of World Records.'Mr Shiwani said Lee was fortunate the fork had not damaged his gullet on the way into his stomach.'If it had been a metal fork, or had got stuck in the gullet it would have caused more damage earlier.'He said Lee, could have suffered a perforated stomach, potentially leading to a fatal infection, if the fork had not been removed.But Lee, who was discharged from hospital this week, is expected to make a full recovery.The consultant, who has worked at Barnsley Hospital for ten years, said he had never known a foreign object to last so long inside a person.'If something does get lodged, then normally a patient would become ill almost immediately. This is why Lee's case is so uncharacteristic.The plastic had been exposed to stomach acid for ten years but apart from it being black, there was no damage. It didn't melt it down or anything which is remarkable.' I think the only thing you could do is let it pass. If you didn't notice it going down then I swabbed it big enough to do any harm or anything. I would hope so, but it was actually the full length of the tine? I have braces I accidentally swallowed - my rubber bands a few times. I mean what do you believe is going to happen besides pooping it out ? It's going to stab your baby or attack you insides ? use your brain Uh, why are you scared haha? It's not gonna make it's way to your baby. I'm sure you'll be okay -:) you'll be amazed at what your body can pass! While working my clinicals in the ER a man had swallowed 5 steak knife blades and they were somehow working their way out. just pay attention to your body for the next few days to make sure you don't experience any pain or discomfort. Mumsnet hasn't checked the qualifications of anyone posting here. If you have medical concerns, please seek medical attention; if you think your problem could be acute, do so immediately. 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