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How not to miss foreign body during wound debridement: A case report

Rio Aditya and John Butar Butar^{1,2}
¹Universitas Pelita Harapan, Indonesia
²Siloam Hospitals, Indonesia

Background: Nearly 38% of foreign bodies were missed during initial wound inspection. Failure to identify foreign bodies leads to complications such as infection, delayed wound healing and loss of function. Imaging studies such as plain radiograph should be considered when there is a suspicion for a foreign body.

Case Report: A 24-years-old male was referred to the author’s clinic with symptoms of recurrent pain and swollen left dorsal foot since two months prior to admission. Pain described as a dull, intermittent and worsening pain. Patient had a history of motor vehicle accident two months before with multiple lacerations on left dorsal foot and left proximal antebrachii region. Initial management has been done in the emergency department of local general hospital and the patient undergone wound cleansing and suturing of the lacerated skin. The following weeks, the patient suffered a recurrent wound infection because of a retained foreign body (stone) and successfully treated with wound exploration surgery. Over next several weeks, the wound healed completely without any complications.

Discussion: Foreign bodies can be easily missed during initial evaluation of an open wound. The initial examiner may easily overlooked probable foreign bodies while focusing more on the visible wound or vital diagnoses. Failure to identify foreign bodies leads to complications such as infection, delayed wound healing and loss of function. Because of these reason, we found proposed an algorithm to help emergency physician diagnose retained foreign bodies.

References:

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Biography

Rio aditya completed his Medical Doctor graduation from Faculty of Medicine Unversitas Pelita Harapan in the year 2017. Present he is working in the Faculty of Medicine Universitie Pelita Harapan as medical doctor. He has Research Experience on Effects of Dynamic and Static Stretching on Hamstring muscle flexibility in Recreational Athlete.

rioaditya12@gmail.com

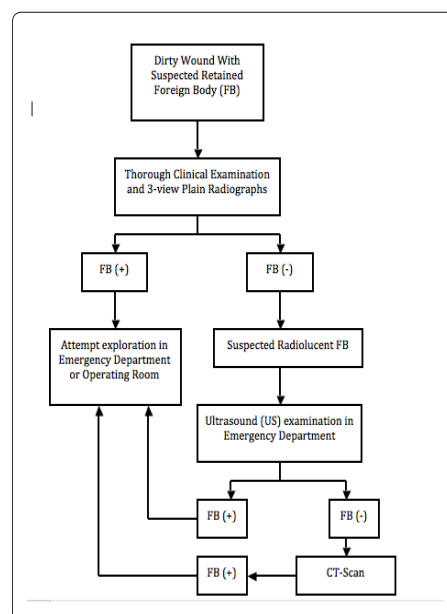


Figure-1: Diagnostic algorithm to be used in emergency department to detect suspected foreign body.