A case of sudden deterioration in Parkinson disease

Figure Pharynx observed by fiber optic endoscopy

Endoscopy reveals a tablet stuck in the pharynx.

An 84-year-old woman with a 9-year history of Parkinson disease (PD) had been treated with levodopa. Hoehn & Yahr stage was 3 and her daily activity was almost independent until her swallowing suddenly worsened and her parkinsonism deteriorated. Fiber optic endoscopy revealed a tablet stuck in the pharynx despite multiple attempts to swallow (figure; video at Neurology.org). With IV levodopa, her swallowing function and parkinsonism steadily recovered.

Appropriate delivery of dopaminergic medication is crucial for patients with PD. Alternative therapies^{1,2} may be needed in patients with PD with dysphagia.

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Supplemental data
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