Large bladder stone masquerading as foreign body

A 78-year-old man with hypertension and diabetes mellitus was brought to the emergency department having suffered fever and disturbances in consciousness for 2 days. On examination, his vital signs were as follows: body temperature 38°C, heart rate 116 beats/minute, respiratory rate 22/minute, and blood pressure 145/72 mmHg. Abdominal examinations were all negative. Urinalysis showed pyuria and bacteriuria with calcium oxalate crystals, and laboratory tests revealed leukocytosis with a left shift.

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Plain abdominal film showed a radiographic opacity within pelvic area (*Figure 1a*). Pelvic ultrasonography showed a hyperechoic lesion with strong post-acoustic shadow in the urinary bladder (*Figure 1b*). Cystostomy and lithotripsy confirmed the presence of a large bladder stone (*Figure 2*). His consciousness improved after treatment and he was discharged 1 week later uneventfully.

There have been several reports describing a pelvic radio-opacity of such size and its origin, including foreign body (Kasmani and Irani, 2010), calcification of pelvic tumour (Burkill et al, 2009) and Meckel's diverticulum with enterolith (Gibney, 1991). Rapid bedside ultrasound could facilitate subsequent management and reduce unnecessary workup, such as computed tomography. BJHM

Burkill GJC, Allen SD, A'Hern R et al (2009) Significance of tumour calcification in ovarian carcinoma. *Br J Radiol* **82:** 640–4

Gibney EJ (1991) Diverticulum of a Meckel's diverticulum containing a stone. *Postgrad Med J* **67:** 692–4

Kasmani R, Irani F (2010) Opacity in the Pelvis. *Am J Med Sci* **340:** 154

Figure 1. a. An abdominal film showed a round and homogenous density mass at the centre of the true pelvis. A central line is set through the left femoral vein. b. Pelvic ultrasonography revealed a highly echogenic substance inside the urinary bladder with strong post-acoustic shadow.

a

Figure 2. A bladder stone measuring 5 cm was retrieved after cystostomy. There is a multitude of crystals concentrating on the stone surface, as can be seen shedding on the plate.