

## Ulceration caused by a persimmon bezoar

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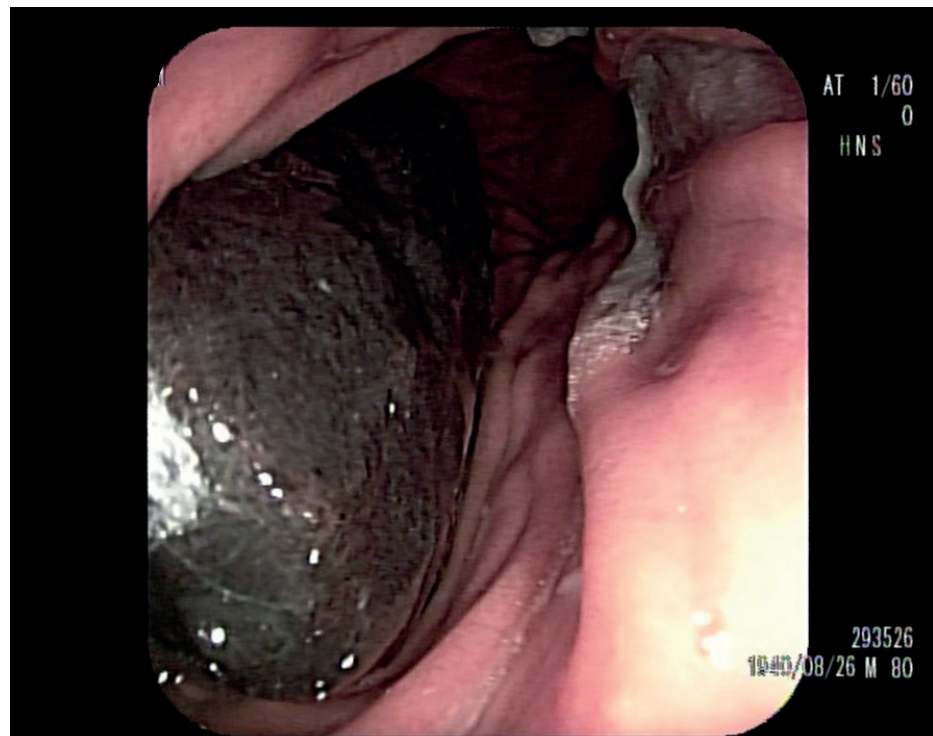
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A healthy 82-year-old man presented with abdominal pain which he had been experiencing for months. He loved persimmon and had been eating them at least twice a week, but had difficulty chewing them because he had loose teeth. Upper endoscopy showed a 5 cm blackish bezoar at the greater curvature of the proximal stomach, with a huge ulcer in apposition (Figure 1). To remove the stone, he drank Coke 300 ml per day for 1 month first to soften the stone, followed by lithotripsy using an electric knife and then removal of the bezoar fragments using a dormia basket in another session of endoscopic intervention.



**Figure 1.** Blackish bezoar with huge ulcer in apposition at the proximal stomach.

Persimmon contains high levels of tannic acid and indigestible fibres. Tannic acid may interact with gastric acid to form a coagulum of persimmon fibres, resulting in the formation of a bezoar. Typically, persimmon bezoars are extremely hard, but fine bubbles of carbonic acid found in Coke might permeate the irregular surface of the bezoar microscopically and soften it, making it easier to remove via endoscopy.

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