ABSTRACT

Objectives: Penetrating trauma to the neck and foreign body aspiration are two injuries that infrequently occur in adults. Reports of the two presenting simultaneously have rarely been described in the literature, and little information is available concerning the correct approach for treatment.

Methods: Case presentation of penetrating trauma to the neck and foreign body aspiration.

Results: The authors present the unusual case of a gunshot wound to the pharynx followed by aspiration of the bullet in an adult patient. In this case, appropriate treatment of the neck injury had to be prioritized along with discovery and treatment of the airway foreign body.

Conclusions: We describe the successful treatment of an adult patient after aspiration of a bullet following a gunshot wound to the anterior neck. A careful and systematic approach should be utilized given the host of complications that can result from mismanagement of either the penetrating injury to the neck or the aspiration, as the risk of morbidity and mortality is significant.

CASE REPORT

A 56 year-old male with no significant past medical history presented to the Johns Hopkins emergency department after experiencing a gunshot wound to the anterior neck.

Complained of hoarseness and odynophagia

2 centimeter open gunshot wound to the anterior neck at the level of the hyoid and pain to palpation over the thyroid cartilage

Flexible laryngoscopy revealed small amount of bleeding from the left aryepiglottic fold

No obvious exit wound

Patient was taken for CXR, CT neck, and CT angiography

Bullet was removed with rigid bronchoscope

The patient remained intubated and was monitored overnight. He was extubated on post-operative day 1 without complication. The patient improved quickly, and post-operative day 2 showed bilateral vocal fold motion

Patient discharged post-operative day 3

REFERENCES