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Body packing and intra-vaginal body pushing of Cocaine: A case report.

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1. Abstract with key words:

Drug trafficking is an international problem. The prevalence of drug trafficking and newer concealing methods has been ever increasing. Body packing is described as using the abdominal or pelvic cavity for concealing illegal drugs. Body pushers smuggle illicit drugs by inserting them into rectum or vagina. These cases are either presented to the emergency departments as Body Packer Syndrome or as asymptomatic cases for observation, detained for alleged possession of contraband substances. We report a unique case of an asymptomatic white female who was detained at Mumbai International Airport under suspicion and brought to hospital for observation. X ray and CT scan examination revealed 7 wrapped packets in gastrointestinal track and 1 large packet in vagina. A case of female body packer using multiple modalities of concealment especially in vagina is rare in India so it is becomes imperative to present this case in the light of body packing and body pushing of contraband substances.

Key words - Body packing; Body pushing; intra-vaginal; CT scan; Cocaine.

2. Introduction:

Body packing was first reported in 1973 by Deitel and Syed [1], who described a 21-year-old patient who had developed small bowel obstruction after swallowing a condom filled with hashish. Currently, the word “body packer” is generally used to define a drug carrier who swallows packages of illicit drugs to hide them in his/her alimentary tract. These criminals carry several names: “body packers”, “couriers”, “swallowers”, “internal carriers” or “mules”. [2] Body packers commonly ingest large bags (2–8cm) [3] containing drugs prior to crossing international borders, to recover them after arrival at their destination. Their drug bags are carefully packed and enveloped in containers expected to remain undamaged during the gastrointestinal tract transit. To increase clarity, two other terms have been used: “body pusher” and “body stuffer”. The “body pusher” introduces the drug packages rectally or vaginally; these packages are commonly bigger than those swallowed. [4] The “body stuffer”, also called “mini packer”, is an individual (usually a trafficker or user) who ingests small amounts of loosely wrapped narcotics, plastic pouches or small pellets upon an accidental encounter with law enforcement for fear of arrest. [4]

Smugglers present to hospital either after detection by customs, or following the development of symptoms and signs of ingested drug toxicity or

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