

Things Growing in Lungs

 healthwise-everythinghealth.blogspot.com/2010/09/things-growing-in-lungs.html

(Image shows a nail clipper inhaled accidentally by a 20 year old man)

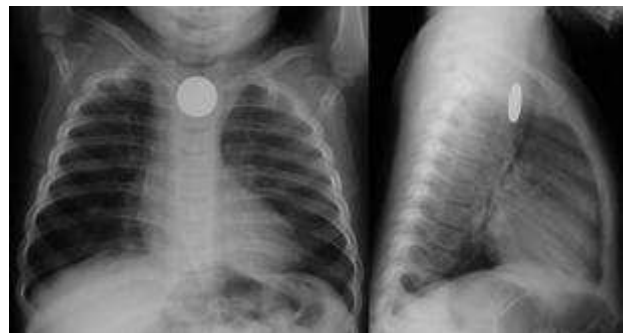
Last month an elderly man in Massachusetts developed a collapsed lung and pneumonia. Usually this means an undiagnosed cancer is lurking. Imagine his relief and surprise to find out it was a pea growing in his lung. That little accidentally inhaled pea started sprouting. It seems that odd things found in lungs is not all that rare. The trachea and the esophagus are really side by side and it is easy to "aspirate" and have food, liquid or objects head into the trachea and then to the bronchus, where it should not be.



What other things have been found in the bronchi and lungs? One surgeon found a belly button ring. Fishbones as well as nuts, beans, little candies or food particles are easily inhaled into the bronchial tubes. Balloons are common as are hot dogs and even small toys. Even partial dentures are found and many times the elderly person didn't know where they lost it.

Children are especially susceptible to foreign body aspiration. 90% of all incidents happen in children under age 4. Small lithium "button" batteries are dangerous for children and are often swallowed. The national Capital Poison Control Center even has a special 24-hour hotline for battery ingestion cases at 202-625-3333. Swallowing one of these batteries is a medical emergency.

What is the most common foreign body (after food) that gets stuck in children? You guessed it...coins.



scintillating scotoma

Nothing like experiencing a medical condition first-hand to really help a doctor understand it from the patient's point of view. After all these years, I had my first (and hopefully last) scintillating scotoma while sitting on the couch playing "words with friends" on my ipad and watching TV. A scotoma is a partial loss of vision in a normal visual field. Scintillate is flashing, sparkles. Put them together and you have moving, flashing sparkles with a blind spot in your eyes.

This visual aura was first described in the 19th century by a Dr. Hubert Airy who had migraine headaches. The visual sparks and flashes are in a zig-zag pattern and they can precede a migraine headache or occur without any pain. The scotoma affects both eyes and closing one or the other does not make it go away. Sometimes the term "ocular migraine" or "retinal migraine" are used to describe this phenomenon but these involve only one eye, not both. The terms are often ...

Do Doctors Make Too Much Money?

An article in the New York Times says the reason health care costs are so high in the United States is because doctors are paid too much. I saw that and my eyes bugged out. I just came home from a meeting with physicians and hospital administrators and the entire meeting was spent discussing the financial challenges physicians face in keeping their doors open to see patients. The goal of this meeting was to keep health services in that community so patients will have someone to care for them. Not a person in the room would agree that the doctors earn too much.

Physicians paid too much? Lets break that down. A doctor spends a minimum of 11 years in education and training after the age of 18. Many are in training for 15 or more years. They are living on student loans and contributing zero to their family's income until the residency years. At that time they earn less than minimum wage if you factor in the 80-100 hour workweek. When a doctor emerges from training (and believe me...

Why Are Doctor Bills So High?

Who hasn't wondered why doctors need to charge so darn much for an office visit? If you have insurance and bother to look at what the insurance company pays, it is always much lower than the charge. Why does medical care cost so much? Is the doctor gouging? One of the best explanations I have seen is stolen from another blog. I would like to give credit but all I know is the name Dr. Adam. He shows this letter to his patients:

Why are doctors' bills so high?

Over the past few years several patients have asked this question. It is a very good question that needs to be answered in the context of our current health care system.

When I was growing up and went to my family doctor, my parents or I paid around \$10 for a

typical minor problem visit (in 1966). With inflation, that would be around \$62 today (in 2006 dollars) (<http://www.westegg.com/inflation>). Today Medicare reimburses me approximately \$33 to \$45 for a similar patient visit. When I was a teenager the overhead costs of...