

To our patients

「Clinical Characteristics and Treatment Outcomes of Body-Packer Cases at Narita-Tomisato Tokushukai Hospital」

This study utilizes records obtained during routine clinical practice. In accordance with national guidelines, when it is difficult to obtain direct consent from each individual patient for such research, it is required to publicly disclose information regarding the study's implementation, including its objectives. All subjects of this study are foreign nationals who have already returned to their home countries; consequently, obtaining their subsequent contact information or establishing individual contact is physically and practically extremely difficult, placing this study in the category of cases where "obtaining appropriate consent is difficult."

1 Subject of the study	Body packers who concealed and transported foreign objects within their bodies and were treated at our hospital's emergency department between January 2024 and June 2026
2 Research purpose/method	The objective is to refine the operational systems and healthcare provider responses at hospitals adjacent to airports by clarifying the clinical course and clinical management of "body packers" based on information from existing medical records. Study period: From approval by the facility director (scheduled for July 2026) to July 2027.
3 Refusal to allow use of information	If the patient—or a family member or representative capable of speaking on behalf of the patient's wishes and interests—does not consent to the use of the patient's information in this study, the patient will not be included as a study subject. Please contact the office listed in "6. Contact Information" if you do not wish to participate; please be assured that declining to participate will not result in any disadvantage to the patient. However, please note that we may be unable to accommodate your request if the data has already been analyzed or if it is otherwise impossible to exclude the data at the time your refusal is communicated.
4 Types of information used in the research	Information: Nationality, age, sex, height, weight, presence/absence of comorbidities, type and number of foreign bodies, imaging (X-ray, CT), blood test results (WBC, CRP, etc.) at presentation and during hospitalization, medications administered, length of hospital stay, treatment details (conservative management, endoscopic treatment, surgical treatment, confirmation of spontaneous passage, etc.), clinical course, etc.
5 Handling of personal information	The collected data will be processed to ensure anonymity before undergoing statistical analysis. In accordance with the government's "Ethical Guidelines for Medical and Health Research Involving Human Subjects," personal information will be strictly protected, and research results will be published in a manner that prevents the identification of individuals.

6 Contact information	If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact us at the address below. Upon request, you may view the research protocol and related materials, provided that doing so does not compromise the protection of personal information or intellectual property rights of other research participants. Contact for inquiries and for opting out of use in the research: Sumito Sato (Principal Investigator, Narita Tomisato Tokushukai Hospital Department of Surgery, Head of surgery) Address: 1-1-1 Hiyoshidai, Tomisato-city, Chiba Phone: +81-476-93-1001
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