

SNAPSHOT

Short circuit

A 19-year-old man was referred to the outpatient department with a 3-month history of recurrent urinary tract infection and an x-ray showing a calcified ring-like structure in his bladder (Figure A). He had no relevant medical history and denied knowledge of any foreign body having entered his urethra.

At cystoscopy, the ring-like structure (over 3 cm in diameter) appeared rather like a fried onion ring (Figure B). A lithoclast was used to fragment a dense layer of calcification, revealing a plastic sheath used to house electrical wire as the offending foreign body. Once the calcification had been removed, it was

possible to extract the object with endoscopic forceps (Figure C). The patient was advised to avoid electricians.

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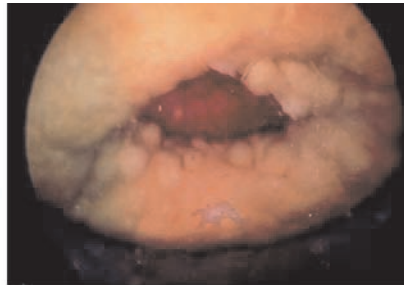
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A: An x-ray demonstrating a ring-like structure in the region of the bladder, consistent with a calcified foreign body.



B: Cystoscopic view of the ring-like structure. Multiple layers of calcification on the foreign body gave it an "onion ring" appearance.



C: The foreign body, with calcification removed.