The ingested coin that should never get stuck

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A four-year-old boy presented with vomiting 7 days after ingesting a 2 eurocents coin. An abdominal X-ray (A) showed a metal object projected at the height of the right upper quadrant. As there were no signs of bowel obstruction, the child was sent home to wait for spontaneous emission.

One week later, he presented again with worsening symptoms such as continuous vomiting at night. An upper gastrointestinal endoscopy (B) showed a coin located in the duodenal bulb, which appeared dilated, proximal to a significant stenosis of D2. The coin was extracted but it was not possible to pass the endoscope further through the stenosis. An abdominal ultrasound (C) showed a full and dilated D1 and D2 up to the duodenal papilla where a small strip of pancreas extended in front of the duodenum, creating a disparity in caliber between the proximal and distal D2. This image suggested an annular pancreas.

References: