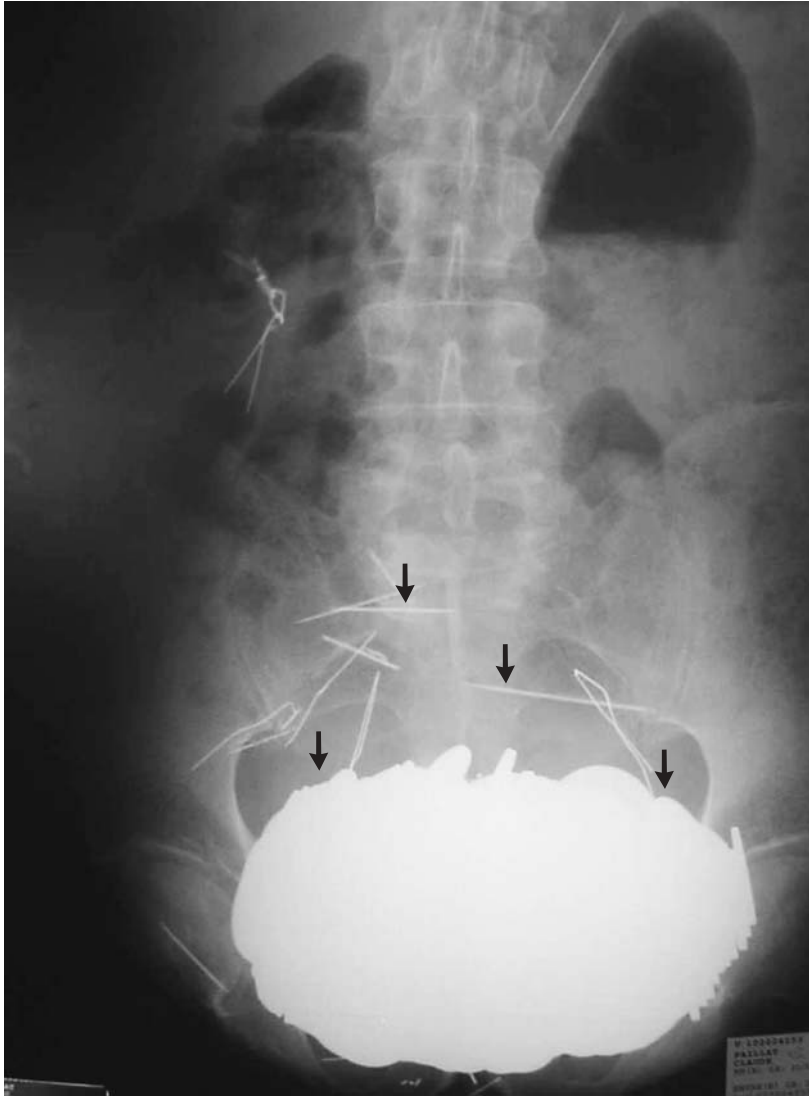


A Medical Mystery



A 62-YEAR-OLD MAN PRESENTED WITH AN ILEUS, MARKED ABDOMINAL distention, hypotension, and oliguria. He had a 15-year history of chronic psychosis. Laboratory findings included renal dysfunction, abnormal liver-function values, and marked hyponatremia. A total of 4800 ml of fluid was aspirated with a nasogastric tube. An anteroposterior abdominal radiograph revealed a ptotic gastric fundus filled with a very large, radiopaque density (arrows). What was responsible for the findings?

Editor's note: We invite our readers to submit their answers at www.nejm.org/mystery. We will publish the diagnosis in the Correspondence section of the February 19, 2004, issue and e-mail it to everyone who submits an answer. All answers must be received by January 15, 2004.

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Bruno François, M.D.

Association des Réanimateurs
du Centre Ouest
87000 Limoges, France

Olivier Brenet, M.D.

Association des Réanimateurs
du Centre Ouest
49300 Cholet, France