

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 50454

Date: 27/02/2025

**Title: "Body Packing and Surgical Intensive Care: Analysis of Complications and Management Strategies"**

### Recommendation:

- ✓ Accept as it is .....
- Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision .....
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 28/02/2025

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This paper is a valuable resource for emergency physicians, radiologists, and surgeons, offering practical guidelines for diagnosing and managing body packers. By integrating early detection strategies and a multidisciplinary approach, healthcare systems can reduce morbidity and mortality associated with this dangerous practice.

## *Reviewer's Comment / Report*

This research paper examines the medical complications and management strategies related to body packing, a method of illicit drug transportation in which individuals ingest drug-filled capsules to evade law enforcement. The study presents two clinical cases treated in the surgical anesthesia intensive care unit at CHU Ibn Rochd, highlighting diagnostic approaches, complications, and treatment strategies. The study emphasizes the role of medical imaging, particularly CT scans, in identifying ingested drug packets and guiding treatment decisions. It discusses conservative versus surgical management, complications such as capsule rupture, mesenteric ischemia, and cardiovascular toxicity, and underscores the importance of early detection and multidisciplinary care in preventing fatal outcomes.

### Key Strengths of the Study

- Clinical Relevance and Real-World Cases:** The paper presents two detailed case studies, providing valuable insights into real-life medical challenges faced by emergency and surgical teams. The discussion covers both conservative and surgical approaches, helping clinicians understand decision-making in high-risk patients.
- Strong Emphasis on Diagnostic Imaging:** The study highlights CT scans as the gold standard for detecting ingested drug capsules, confirming their location, number, and integrity. The inclusion of CT images and 3D reconstructions enhances the paper's diagnostic clarity and educational value.
- Discussion of Complications and Management Strategies:** The paper details life-threatening complications such as capsule rupture, acute drug toxicity, bowel obstruction, and mesenteric ischemia. It provides clear guidance on when to use conservative management (observation and natural evacuation) versus surgical intervention (laparotomy or endoscopic removal).

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4. **Multidisciplinary Approach and Preventive Strategies:** The study advocates for a coordinated approach involving radiologists, surgeons, toxicologists, and intensive care specialists. It proposes preventive measures such as airport body scanners and awareness campaigns to reduce the incidence of body packing.

### Limitations of the Study

1. **Limited Sample Size:** The study is based on only two cases, which limits its generalizability to broader patient populations. A larger dataset or a retrospective analysis of multiple cases would provide stronger statistical insights.

2. **Lack of Long-Term Follow-Up:** The study does not include long-term outcomes of the treated patients, making it difficult to assess the effectiveness of different treatment strategies. Follow-up data on potential complications, relapse rates, or psychological aspects of body packers would add value.

3. **Ethical and Legal Considerations Not Explored:** While the study focuses on medical management, it does not discuss the ethical and legal challenges associated with treating body packers, such as mandatory reporting, law enforcement involvement, and patient rights. Addressing hospital policies and legal frameworks for managing these cases would provide a more comprehensive perspective.