



A WEIRD URINE SAMPLE

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A 5-year female, who had suffered from a very mild strangury in the last few days, brought to the primary care pediatrician a urine sample in a winter morning, in order to perform a urine test strip for the rapid determination of ten parameters. When the mother opened the disposable urine container in front of the pediatrician, they realized that three ivory-white, half-round objects, unnoticed during the sampling, floated on the urine surface. They displayed a diameter of approximately 1 centimeters. In order to appreciate their size, notice that, in the Figure, the total diameter of the 150 ml cylinder is 5,8 cm. The three cupola-shaped structures were hard to the touch. Despite their hard plastic consistency, they cracked in 4-5 smaller pieces after a strong pressure between two fingers.

The test strip did not show urinary pathological findings. Physical examination did not reveal alterations in child's perineal and genital areas. The young female did not suffer from systemic diseases, such as hyperoxaluria or metabolic alterations. She was taking levetiracetam (oral solution), because of a recent diagnosis of early onset occipital epilepsy. The mother was fully reliable and trustworthy and did not suffer from any psychiatric or psychological diseases.

Note that the well mixed, non-centrifuged, protected from light, not older than two hours urine was collected in a clean, well rinsed container, free of detergents and preservatives. No one manipulated the container after the sampling.

ANSWER:

Where did the objects come from? After a careful anamnestic investigation, it sorted out that the child suffered from a recent onset otalgia, and that the mother treated the painful symptoms with paracetamol by rectal suppository in the past two days. In order to confirm the "diagnosis", a rectal examination was performed: traces of a white, semisolid material, compatible with the remnants of a paracetamol suppository, were found 2-3 centimeters above the dentate line.