A 28-year-old schizophrenic man was admitted to the Emergency Department, complaining of exertional dyspnea. A review of his medical history revealed that 3 years earlier he had tried to swallow a knife. It was removed from the esophagus by endoscopy.

Two years before admission he told his relatives that he had swallowed another knife, but they did not believe him. Posteroanterior (Fig. 1) and lateral (Fig. 2) views of the chest were obtained, demonstrating a knife-like object in the right main bronchus.

A rusty knife without its handle, measuring 5 × 2 cm, was removed from the right main bronchus by bronchoscopy. His postoperative course was uncomplicated.

Although the most extraordinary objects have been inhaled or swallowed by mentally challenged people, we have not seen a case like this reported in the literature.

Submitted by Niyazi Görmüş, MD,* Sami Ceran, MD,† Olgun K. Aribas, MD,† and Güven S. Sunam, MD,† from the departments of †Thoracic and *Cardiovascular Surgery, University Hospital, Meram Medical School of Selçuk University, Konya, Turkey

Correspondence to: Dr. Niyazi Görmüş, Selçuk Üniversitesi Tip Fakültesi, Kalp Damar Cerrahisi Anabilim Dali, Akokus 42080, Konya Turkey; fax 90 332 3232643; ngormus@selcuk.edu.tr

FIG. 1. Posteroanterior chest film showing a knife-like object without a handle in the right mainstem bronchus.

FIG. 2. Lateral view showing the position of the foreign object (a 5-cm long knife blade) in the right bronchus.