



## Short Communication

# Bladder stones of unusual shape in a male with paraplegia due to spinal cord injury who has been performing self-catheterisation

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We report bladder stones with strikingly odd configuration in a male patient who sustained complete paraplegia with sensory level at T-5 following a car accident in April 1997 when he was seventeen-years-old. He had been performing self-catheterisation and taking oxybutynin by mouth. In October 1998, he started leaking urine between catheterisations. X-ray of the urinary bladder revealed a circular and two curvilinear opacities (Figure 1). Cystoscopy showed a ring-shaped stone and two sausage-shaped stones in the bladder (Figure 2). All the stones were removed *in toto*. Close inspection of the cylindrical stone revealed a lumen with a hair as the nidus of the stone. Probably,

hair from the genitalia was introduced inside the bladder during catheterisation; subsequently, this foreign body acted as a nidus for stone formation.

This case raises the issue of periodic shaving of genital region in persons who perform intermittent catheterisation. Flexible cystoscopy revealed hair inside the urinary bladder of a few patients with spinal cord injury who were on indwelling urethral catheter drainage, or performing intermittent catheterisation. We are reporting this case with illustrations to raise awareness amongst health professionals of this potential complication in spinal cord injury patients.



**Figure 1** X-ray of the urinary bladder shows a circular and two curvilinear opacities



**Figure 2** Cystoscopy revealed a ring-like stone and two sausage-shaped stones