

# Vaginal Foreign Body or simply, Monsel's solution?

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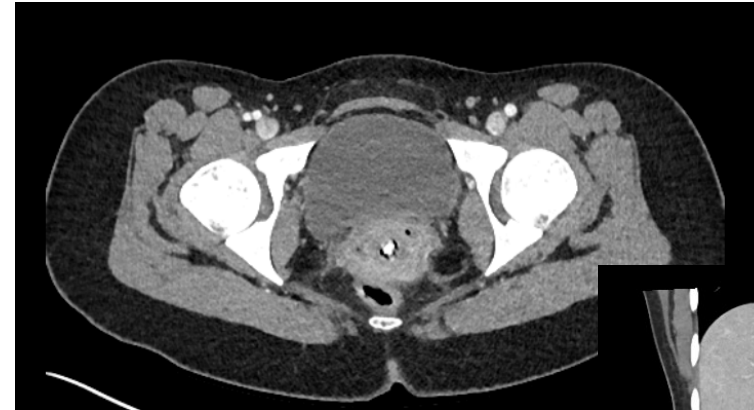
**Background:** Monsel's solution, or ferric subsulfate, is a commonly used haemostatic agent in gynaecological procedures. It is an effective styptic after minor procedures such as cervical biopsy and Large Loop Excision of the Transformation Zone (LLETZ). Given its metallic nature, it should be apparent on imaging, however there is limited literature on this topic. This report is a novel diagnostic dilemma in which Monsel's solution was mistaken for a metallic vaginal foreign body. To our knowledge, this is the first case report of its kind.

**Aim:** The following case highlights the imaging qualities of Monsel's solution and emphasises the importance of understanding the qualities of haemostatic agents.

**Case:** A 20-year-old female patient presented to the Emergency Department with acute onset abdominal pain two days after a LLETZ procedure. An abdominal/pelvic computed tomography (CT) scan reported a 9mm metallic structure of uncertain nature located in the upper vagina. The patient denied any foreign body insertion and a speculum examination revealed the healing LLETZ wound still covered in Monsel's solution, with no foreign body evident. Transvaginal ultrasound and pelvic x-ray revealed no foreign body. The metallic structure seen on CT was indeed the remaining Monsel's solution and was not thought to be associated with the patient's pain.

**Results:** Monsel's solution can be easily mistaken for a vaginal foreign body on CT due to its metallic nature.

**Discussion:** Health care providers should be aware that Monsel's solution can be detected on CT imaging – an unusual differential diagnosis indeed.



*Monsel's solution visible on the cervix via CT*

