

**Picture Story**

**A child who vomited for two years**

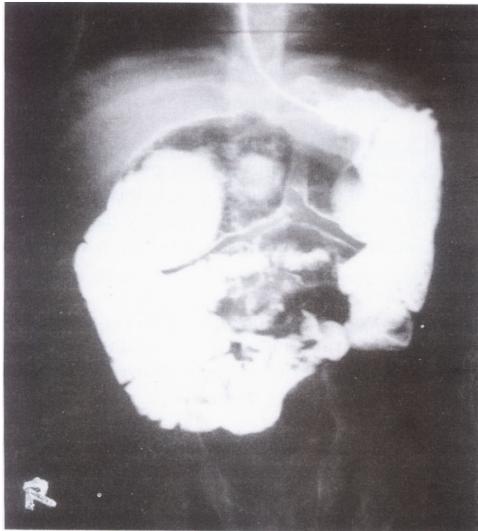
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A 2 year and 10 month old girl with Down syndrome presented to Apollo Hospitals, Colombo with severe dehydration preceded by vomiting. She had a history of chronic persistent vomiting since the age of 9 months. She has been vomiting, almost daily, copious amounts of food. Sometimes, particles of food eaten the previous day could be identified in the vomitus. She has been admitted twice to a Base Hospital with these symptoms and discharged after fluid management.

Her birth weight was 3 kg and the weight on admission was 5.5 kg indicating severe failure to thrive. The blood gas analysis done on admission showed compensated metabolic alkalosis. Plain x-ray of the abdomen was normal. After fluid management a barium meal with follow through was done which showed barium collected in grossly dilated stomach and duodenum (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Barium meal with follow through showing barium collected in grossly dilated stomach and duodenum

An erect abdominal x-ray done three days after the barium study showed barium still present in the stomach and intestines due to delayed emptying with air-fluid levels at the stomach and first part of the duodenum (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Erect abdominal x-ray 3 days after barium study showing barium still present in stomach and intestines with air-fluid levels at stomach and first part of duodenum

A laparotomy done at Apollo Hospitals in this child revealed duodenal stenosis with grossly dilated stomach and first part of the duodenum. A duodeno-duodenostomy was done, by-passing the duodenal stenosis. The child, who became asymptomatic following surgery, is thriving well for the past five months.

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