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Picture Prognosis

A 9-month-old boy undergoing evaluation for a respiratory infection is incidentally found to have a linear radiopaque object in the left lumbar region. CT demonstrates a linear hyperdense focus at the lower pole of the left kidney. He is asymptomatic, with normal renal function. What is the most likely diagnosis?

1. Renal abscess
2. Retained renal foreign body
3. Renal calculus
4. Urinary tract obstruction

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Answer: Retained renal foreign body

CT confirmed a linear foreign body within the lower pole of the left kidney. During laparoscopy, a 3-cm broken hypodermic injection needle was found protruding from the renal parenchyma and was successfully removed. Imaging demonstrated a linear radiopaque object resembling a needle, rather than a calculus. CT localized the linear foreign body to the lower pole of the left kidney. The infant was asymptomatic, clinically normal and had normal blood investigations and renal function tests. The reported abnormality was a metallic foreign body rather than an abscess. The patient had no urinary symptoms or clinical abnormalities, and renal function remained normal. Obstruction is described as a potential complication of retained renal foreign bodies, not a finding present in this case.