

Simple fix freed this boy's tongue trapped in bottle

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Patient with tongue trapped in bottle

(HealthDay)— When a 7-year-old's tongue got stuck in a juice bottle,

one savvy doctor used an old trick to release it.

The boy was trying to get the last drop of juice when his tongue created a vacuum and he couldn't get it out of the bottle. When he arrived at Auf der Bult Children's Hospital in Hannover, Germany, his tongue was swollen and discolored.

At first doctors tried lubricating the tongue and twisting it out of the bottle. But that didn't work. They wanted to avoid more invasive measures that would require [general anesthesia](#) and cutting the bottle away.

So they next tried putting a thin catheter into the bottle around the boy's tongue, hoping that would release the vacuum. That, too, had no effect.

Then, one doctor recalled a way he had once popped a cork out of a wine bottle when he couldn't find a corkscrew. They attached a [syringe](#) to the catheter and forced air into the bottle.

That did the trick, and doctors were able to separate the boy from the bottle at last.

"We found only one previous report of a positive pressure technique similar to the one used by us in our patient," said Dr. Christoph Eich, a pediatric emergency doctor at the [hospital](#).

"The idea to attempt to inject air into the bottle to produce positive pressure was inspired by my personal recollection of successfully uncorking a wine [bottle](#) while working as an anesthetic registrar, with the use of a syringe-and-cannula technique on an occasion when no corkscrew was available," he said in a news release from the European Society of Anaesthesiology.

The boy was admitted to the hospital for 24 hours of observation, and given prednisolone and ibuprofen to reduce the swelling in his [tongue](#).

When he left the hospital, the swelling had mostly disappeared, but it took about three days for the discoloration to go away. After two weeks, he had fully recovered.

The report was published Oct. 31 in the *European Journal of Anaesthesiology*.

More information: For more on children and medical emergencies, visit the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

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