

By John Musenze

Surgeons at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital have successfully carried out surgery to remove 50 sewing needles and other foreign objects from the stomach and intestines of a nine-year-old boy.

The Primary One pupil of St Luke Primary School in Kashenshero town council, Mitooma district, is currently recovering under specialised paediatric surgical care after undergoing two delicate surgeries. Doctors said the boy had endured persistent stomach pain for months and had been taken to several clinics without improvement before scans eventually revealed multiple metallic objects lodged inside his abdomen.

He was referred to Mbarara Hospital from Ishaka Adventist Hospital after doctors there detected foreign bodies during imaging examinations conducted at Gava Imaging Centre in Bushenyi.

According to Eunice Birungi,

Mbarara surgeons remove 50 needles from boy's stomach

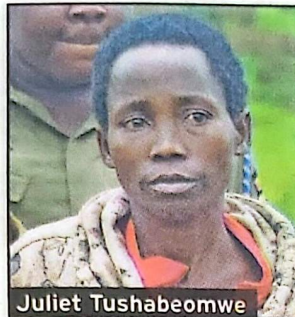
the child's aunt and primary caretaker, she decided to seek further medical attention after his condition worsened.

The surgery was conducted by a team of eight, led by paediatric surgeon Dr Eden Tilahun under the supervision of Dr Deus Twesigye, the acting hospital director and senior consultant general surgeon.

Twesigye described the surgery as extraordinary and one that required a high level of precision.

During the first surgery, which lasted about six hours, surgeons removed 43 sewing needles, some tied in bundles, along with pieces of textile material, thin strings and fragments of pens.

"Most of the needles were rusted, suggesting they had been present for some time. The fact that there were multiple and some were wrapped made the case appear unusual and



Juliet Tushabeomwe

extraordinary," Dr Tilahun.

The objects were discovered in different parts of the abdomen, including the large bowel, pelvic region and loops of the small intestine.

Following the first surgery, doctors ordered another X-ray scan to confirm whether all the objects had been removed. However, the scan revealed another needle still lodged inside the abdomen, forcing



The scan showing needles found in the stomach

surgeons to conduct a second surgery during which two more needles stuck together were successfully removed.

The child remains under close observation by the paediatric

surgery team as doctors monitor his recovery.

The hospital administration said several sections of the child's intestines had become inflamed, warning that the

condition could have caused severe injury to vital abdominal organs if left untreated.

The boy had reportedly been living with his stepmother, Juliet Tushabaomwe, after his father, Simon Twinomugisha, separated from his biological mother, Mellon Natuhwera, when he was still an infant.

Family members allege the child had endured torture, overwork and inadequate feeding while under the stepmother's care.

Meanwhile, the case has since taken a criminal turn after the child's stepmother, Juliet Tushabeomwe, was arraigned before the Grade One Magistrate's Court in Mitooma district on May 8, over allegations linked to the boy's condition.

Tushabeomwe was charged with aggravated torture and attempted murder.