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CLINICAL IMAGE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY

Epiploic appendagitis in an 80-year-old woman, an uncommon cause of acute abdominal pain in the elderly*



Apendicitis epiploica en una mujer de 80 años, una causa poco frecuente de abdomen agudo en el anciano

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An 80-year-old woman with a past history of high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus, and overweight was admitted for symptoms of respiratory infection accompanied by partial respiratory failure. Seventy-two hours after her admission, her initial clinical symptoms were stabilized and the patient complained of nonspecific abdominal discomfort accompanied by nausea and general malaise. Physical examination

revealed abdominal rigidity in the right lower quadrant; a computed tomography scan was ordered and it identified epiploic appendagitis (fig. 1A), together with important trabeculation of the locoregional fat (fig. 1B). The patient was put in a fasting state, hydrated intravenously, and given analgesics. Her clinical symptoms improved over the following 3 days and there was no need for surgery.

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Figure 1 A) A $2\times3\,\mathrm{mm}$ oval-shaped image is seen at the greater omentum, near the left flank, surrounded by inflammatory changes and a small quantity of free fluid, consistent with epiploic appendagitis as a first possibility. B) A $3\times3\,\mathrm{mm}$ image, immediately adjacent to the previous image, consistent with circumscript inflammatory changes in the epiploic fat of the left flank with a small quantity of free fluid.

Ethical responsibilities

Protection of persons and animals. The authors declare that no experiments were performed on humans or animals for this study.

Data confidentiality. The authors declare that no patient data appear in this article.

Right to privacy and informed consent. The authors declare that no patient data appear in this article.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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