



CLINICAL IMAGE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY

The importance of recognizing emphysematous gastritis in time[☆]

La importancia de reconocer la gastritis enfisematosa a tiempo

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An 82-year-old man presented with bloating and generalized abdominal pain, accompanied by vomiting (dark in color, with an aspect of retention vomiting) and diarrheic stools. A plain abdominal x-ray (Fig. 1) showed air in the gastric wall and bowel segment dilation. An abdominal computed tomography (CT) scan was ordered (Fig. 2) that revealed intramural gas associated with gastric dilation, pneumoperitoneum (Fig. 3), and gas in the portal vein (Fig. 4). An exploratory laparotomy was performed, finding a distended stomach with gas bubbles in its serosa and no signs of transmural necrosis or perforation. Intraoperative gastroscopy identified ulcerated-necrotic mucosa with no spontaneous bleeding on the posterior surface, body, and greater curvature. Given those findings, no further surgical act was carried out. *Lactobacillus jensenii* was isolated in blood cultures and treated with meropenem + linezolid. The patient progressed favorably, with improvement in the control abdominal CT scan, and was released from the hospital. Emphysematous gastritis is a rare pathology produced

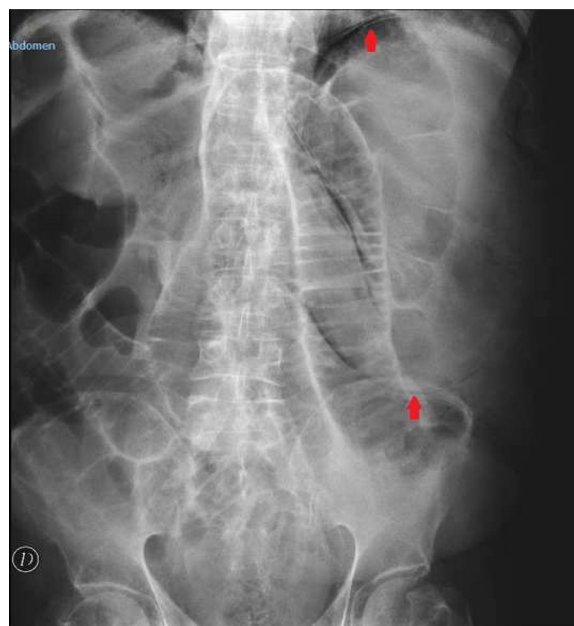


Figure 1 Plain abdominal x-ray showing gastric dilation with intramural gas (arrows) and small bowel segment dilation.

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by the translocation of gas-producing microorganisms in the walls of the stomach. The causal agent cannot be isolated in up to 42.4%¹ of cases and there is a 60% mortality rate.²



Figure 2 Luminogram from an abdominal CT scan with iv contrast medium. Intraparietal gas forming a dilated gastric silhouette is shown, as well as the bowel segment dilation.



Figure 3 Axial view of the abdominal CT scan with iv contrast medium showing abundant quantities of intraparietal gas in the stomach, small bowel segment dilation with a maximum caliber of 4.3 cm, and a pneumoperitoneum of moderate quantity adjacent to the gastric body and anterior abdominal wall.

CT is the diagnostic study of choice and is essential for making early diagnosis and implementing the vital support treatment with broad-spectrum antibiotics. Surgery is only required if there is no response to conservative treatment or in cases of severe sepsis or gastric perforation.³

Ethical considerations

The authors declare that no experiments were conducted on animals or humans for the present research and that



Figure 4 Axial view of the abdominal CT scan with iv contrast medium showing abundant gas in the portal vein (portal pneumatosis).

they followed the protocols of their work center on the publication of patient data, preserving patient anonymity at all times, guaranteeing that the article contains to personal information that could identify patients. The authors received informed consent from the patient described in the article and that document is in the possession of the corresponding author. Likewise, the study meets the current standards in bioethical research, adhering to the protocols and in accordance with the patient and his family.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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