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CLINICAL IMAGE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY

Valentino's syndrome. Perforated peptic ulcer with unusual clinical presentation[☆]



Síndrome de Valentino. Úlcera péptica perforada con presentación clínica inusual

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The eponym “Valentino's appendix” was first described in relation to the American actor, Rudolph Valentino. He underwent an appendectomy for acute appendicitis, later developing peritonitis and multiple organ failure that resulted in his death. Autopsy revealed a perforated gastric ulcer. The fluid originating from the perforated ulcer travels through the paracolic gutter to the right iliac fossa, causing peritoneal irritation in that quadrant. The presence of peri-appendicitis during surgery obliges the surgeon to rule out other pathologies and prevent catastrophic consequences.

A 29-year-old man presented with abdominal pain of 48 h progression. The clinical interview, physical examination, and radiologic findings were consistent with complicated acute appendicitis (Fig. 1). Valentino's syndrome was diagnosed during laparoscopy (Figs. 2 and 3). Appendectomy was performed and primary closure was carried out with the

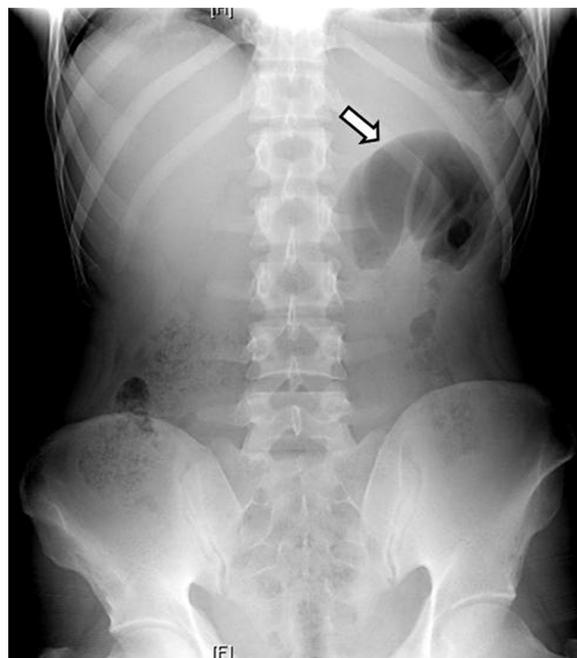


Figure 1 Plain abdominal x-ray with the patient in a standing position shows the fixed segment in the left hemiabdomen (white arrow) with image blurring.

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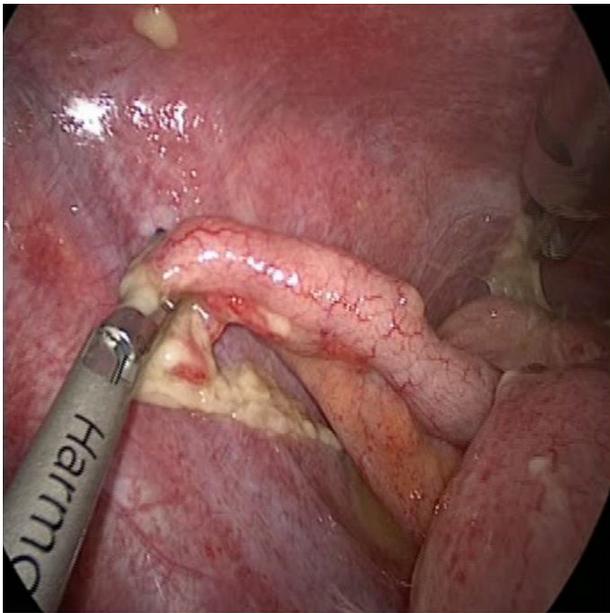


Figure 2 Hyperemic cecal appendix with fibrin and peri-appendicular fluid secondary to chemical peritonitis.

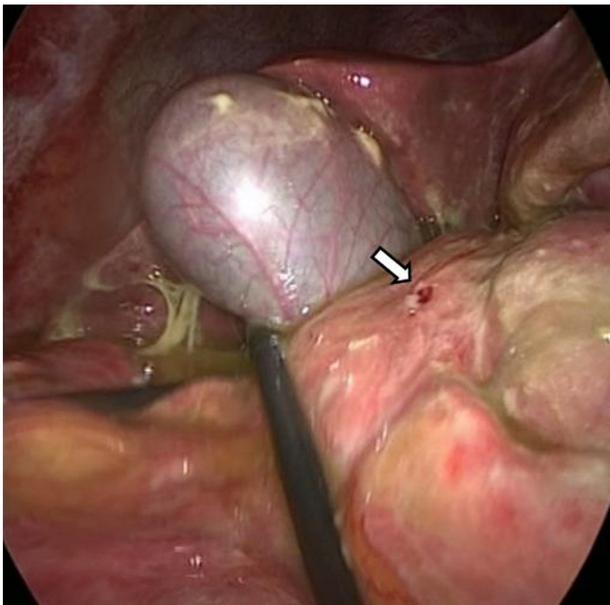


Figure 3 A 5 mm perforated duodenal ulcer on the anterior surface of the first part of the duodenum (white arrow).

Graham patch. Biopsy was taken, the cavity was washed, and drains were laparoscopically placed. The patient had adequate postoperative progression. Free subdiaphragmatic air was observed in the new analysis of the plain abdominal x-ray (Fig. 4).

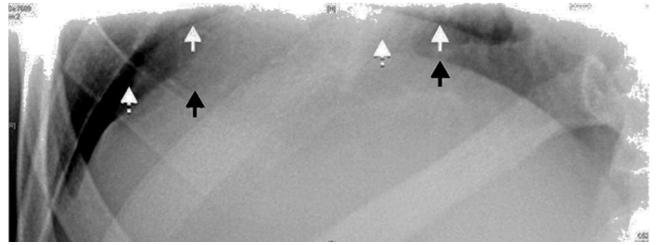


Figure 4 Right upper quadrant of the abdominal x-ray showing the hepatic silhouette (black arrow), diaphragm (white arrow), and the free subdiaphragmatic air (dotted white arrow).

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.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.