

Yet another Case of Abdominal Pain

Maria João Travassos Carvalho^{1*}, Catarina Pacheco², Mariana Teixeira², Érico Costa²

¹Department of General Surgery, Unidade Local de Saúde da Região de Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal, ²Department of Intensive Care Medicine, Unidade Local de Saúde de Gaia/Espinho, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

SECTION 1 – Quiz

Case

A 70-year-old woman with unknown medical history and no regular medical follow-up was admitted in the emergency department due to abdominal pain persisting for 2 weeks, which had worsened 2 h before her first medical contact.

She was transported to the emergency room due to severe hypoxemia and hemodynamic instability. She was tachypneic (respiratory frequency of 22 bpm) with an oxygen delivery of 10 L/min via facial mask to maintain a peripheral saturation of 92%. Her heart rate was 93 bpm and her blood pressure was 62/35 mmHg, with cold and cyanotic extremities. Signs of severe dehydration were evident, with a reduced and concentrated amount of urinary output after catheterization. Her Glasgow Coma Score was 14. She was hypothermic (34.5°C), exhibited poor hygiene and was in a state of severe cachexia. Her abdomen was distended, tender and tympanic, without palpable masses or indurations.

Blood gas sample revealed compensated metabolic acidosis (lactate of 8 mmol/L, pCO₂ 22 mmHg, HCO₃ 19, anion gap 27 mmol/L, pH 7.55). Blood workout revealed hemoglobin of 12.9 g/dL (normal range [NR] 12.0–16.0), serum sodium of 132 mmol/L, uremia of 165 mg/dL (NR 17–50), creatinine of 1.03 mg/dL (NR 0.51–0.95), myoglobinolysis at 203 ng/mL (NR 28–58) and a c-reactive protein of 39 mg/dL (NR <0.5), without leukocytosis. Figure 1 shows the point-of-care ultrasound immediately performed (acuson 5C1 curvilinear probe, 1.0–5.7 MHz).

What is the most likely diagnosis?

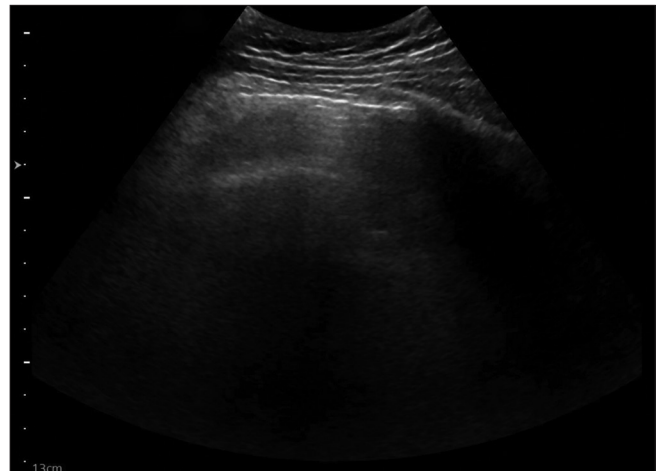


Figure 1: Ultrasound image of the periumbilical region of the abdomen

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent form. In the form, the patient has given her consent for her images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patient understands that her name and initials will not be published and due efforts will be made to conceal identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Address for correspondence: Dr. Maria João Travassos Carvalho, Department of General Surgery, Unidade Local de Saúde da Região de Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal.
E-mail: 72684@ulsra.min-saude.pt

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