

Acute Tip Appendicitis Contained within a Right Sided Inguinal Hernia (Amyand's Hernia)

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Image Article



Figure 1: Acute appendicitis within the inguinal canal.



Figure 2: Acute appendicitis within the inguinal canal.

This patient is a 64 year old male with a PMH of depression, anxiety, COPD, gastritis, and previous right inguinal hernia repair who presented to the emergency room with one day of right groin pain that occurred suddenly the night before. He has never experienced pain like this before and over the counter analgesics did not relieve the pain. Patient states that the pain is associated with a small budge in the right groin that is tender to palpation [1]. On physical exam patient had a soft

and non-tender abdomen. An exquisitely tender 2 cm x 2 cm palpable nodule in the right groin was noted. CT scan of the abdomen showed a right sided inguinal hernia containing the appendix with acute tip appendicitis. Inguinal hernias containing the appendix are rare and are referred to as an Amyand hernia. These are usually found during routine inguinal hernia repairs and are a curiosity for the operating surgeon, but there is little change in the operative management of an open hernia repair when the appendix is easily reducible. Rarer still is the finding of acute appendicitis contained within an inguinal hernia. This finding complicates the management and challenges the surgeon's creativeness [2]. The standard of care for acute appendicitis is laparoscopic removal of the appendix. Whereas the standard of care for inguinal hernia repair is reduction of the hernia sac and mesh repair. A mesh cannot be used in the setting of inflammation, as such is that case with acute appendicitis.

In this case, the acute appendicitis was the more pressing pathology. It was decided to approach via the standard laparoscopic method used for acute appendicitis. The hernia was easily reduced from the abdominal cavity and the appendix was excised in the usual manner. Pathology report showed acute appendicitis [3]. Due to the acute inflammation, the decision was made to not repair the hernia, and instructed the patient to return for follow-up where an elective inguinal hernia repair with mesh would be planned.

References

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