

A Rare Cause of Retroperitoneum

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Abstract

A 40-year-old man underwent anal exploration due to an ischiorectal abscess. Drainage of the abscess and instillation of hydrogen peroxide (HPO) to evidence any perianal fistula was performed. In the fourth postoperative day the patient presents fever accompanied by a painful palpable mass in the right iliac fossa (RIF). Laboratory studies revealed elevated white blood count with neutrophilia.

Keywords: Retroperitoneum; Ischiorectal abscess; Perianal fistula; Hydrogen peroxide

Clinical Image

An urgent CT scan was performed suspecting an ascending progression of the perianal infection. The scan showed a collection with extraperitoneal gas, dissecting the perirectal pelvic fat and ascending to preperitoneal fat. Fearing the possibility of infection by gas-producing bacteria, empirical antibiotic therapy was initiated and an emergency surgery was performed. An incision at the RIF was made followed by a thorough inspection of the affected area, without finding any signs of infection. These and further negative cultures of the samples, indicate that HPO was the primary cause of the retroperitoneum (Figures 1 and 2).

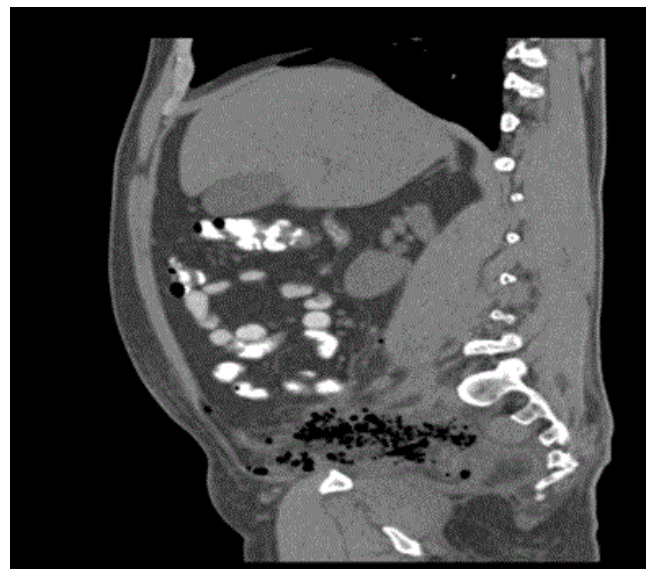


Figure 1: Rare Cause of Retroperitoneum image 1.



Figure 2: Rare Cause of Retroperitoneum image 2.