

Jejunal Diverticulitis Mimicking Small Bowel Perforation: Case Report and Review of the Literature

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Abstract

Jejunal diverticulitis is a rare entity with a higher prevalence among patients between 60 and 70 years. Jejunal diverticula are most often considered an incidental finding, but, they can have complications such as diverticulitis, perforation, abscess, generalized peritonitis, fistula, obstruction and bleeding. Setting the diagnosis still remains challenging. Physicians should be aware of their existence and the clinical suspicion should be raised, especially in the setting of acute abdominal pain where jejunal diverticulitis should be included in the differential diagnosis. A small amount of free air adjacent to the small bowel can be confusing and easily misdiagnosed as small bowel perforation, but, it can actually be found as a result of the inflammation itself without macro-perforation or complications. This fact can change the therapeutic strategy to less aggressive, conservative treatments. We present a case of a patient coming to the emergency department with acute abdominal pain, signs of peritonitis, a small amount of extraluminal air, and jejunal diverticulitis without perforation was diagnosed on laparotomy, and a review of the current literature.

Key words: jejunal diverticulitis, diverticula, perforation, jejunum, acute abdominal pain, differential diagnosis, small bowel