

Clinical case - voluminous diaphragmatic hernia - surgically acute abdomen: diagnostic and therapeutical challenges

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Abstract

We present the case of a 58-year old male patient admitted in the surgery section of the University Emergency Hospital of Bucharest and diagnosed with acute abdomen. The minimal clinical-paraclinical investigation (i.e., thorax-pulmonary X-ray, biological probes) raises questions as to the differentiated diagnosis and other associated diseases, also suggesting the existence of voluminous diaphragmatic hernia. The CT thorax-abdomen examination confirms the diaphragmatic hernia suspicion, with intra-thorax ascent of the colon up to the anterior C4 level, but does not explain the abdominal suffering; thus we suspected a biliary ileus or acute appendicitis. Medial laparotomy was imperative. Intra-surgically peritonitis was noticed located by gangrenous acute appendicitis, perforated, with coprolite, for which appendectomy and lavage-drainage of the peritoneal cavity was performed. Post-surgical status: favourable to recovery.

Key words: diaphragmatic hernia, acute appendicitis, biliary ileus, coprolite

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