Fitz-Hugh–Curtis syndrome in a man

A 45-year-old man was admitted for pain in the upper right abdominal quadrant that had been evolving for months. His previous medical history was unremarkable. The physical examination showed a painful and tense abdomen in the right hypochondrium but the rest was pain free. Biological analysis showed an inflammatory syndrome (C-reactive protein 29.54 mg/L). Liver enzymeology and urine and blood culture were negative. Abdominal ultrasonography and CT scan (Fig. 1) showed the presence of fluid in the perihepatic space, the right paracolic gutter, and the Douglas cul-de-sac. Celioscopy (Fig. 2) showed an inflamed liver parietal peritoneum with “violin string” adhesions, which are specific for Fitz-Hugh–Curtis syndrome [1,2]. A quinolone- and metronidazole-based treatment was administered. The pain resolved partially after the adhesiolyis, as often described [3,4]. Bacteriological analysis of perihepatic membrane biopsies, ascites, and urine samples remained negative. The intradermal reaction was negative. The culture on the Löwenstein medium remained negative. Peritoneal cytology, ascites, and urine samples remained free. Biological analysis showed an inflammatory syndrome. Sporadic cases of Fitz-Hugh–Curtis syndrome have been reported associated with pyelonephritis. Hospital das Clínicas da FMUSP 2012; 67: 1493–1495

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Corresponding author
Stéphanie Rouhard, MD
Department of Gastroenterology
Clinique St Luc
Rue St Luc 8
5004 Bouge
Namur
Belgium
Stephanie_rouhard@hotmail.com