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 enzymology and urine analysis showed an inflammatory syndrome (C-reactive protein 29.54 mg/L). Liver enzymology and urine samples remained negative. Peritoneal inflammatory syndrome was excluded by histological analysis. Sporadic cases of Fitz-Hugh–Curtis syndrome have been reported associated with pyelonephritis. Fitz-Hugh–Curtis syndrome complicated by appendicitis conservatively treated with antibiotics. Fitz-Hugh-Curtis syndrome: a diagnosis to consider in women with right upper quadrant pain. Cleveland Clin J Med 2004; 71: 233–239

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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

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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 enzymology and urine and blood culture were negative. Abdominal ultrasonography and CT scan showed the presence of fluid in the perihepatic space, the right paracolic gutter, and the Douglas cul-de-sac. Celioscopy 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 adhesiolysis, 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 carcinomatosis was excluded by histological analysis. Sporadic cases of Fitz-Hugh–Curtis syndrome have been reported associated with pyelonephritis, complicated by appendicitis, or mimicking cholecystitis, but these diagnoses were excluded in our case [5–7]. Fitz-Hugh–Curtis syndrome is exceptional in men: typically, it affects sexually active women [2,8]. In general, it is associated with pelvic inflammatory disease. The causative pathogens are Neisseria gonorrhoeae or Chlamydia trachomatis, but the bacteriology remained negative in the rare cases reported in males [2], as in our patient.