Mucocoele Of The Appendix

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Ind J Radiol Imag 2006 16:2:191-192

Key words : Mucocele, Appendix, USG, CT

Mucocoeles of appendix are rare, appearing in 0.2 - 0.3% of surgical appendectomy specimens. They usually present as right lower abdominal pain. The male:female preponderance is 1:4. There may be complications like malignant change, pseudomyxoma peritonei and intussusception of mucocoele.

A 65-year-old male presented with pain in the right lower quadrant. Physical examination was normal. Haemogram revealed no significant abnormality. Ultrasound Abdomen revealed a tubular anechoic cystic lesion in right Iliac fossa with good through transmission measuring 6.0 x 2.5 cm. Contrast enhanced spiral CT of the abdomen showed well marginated thin walled tubular structure of fluid attenuation (13HU) posterior to the caecum. No calcification was seen in it. No inflammation of the surrounding fat was seen. There was no evidence of ascites. Provisional diagnosis of Mucocoele of appendix was made and was confirmed on surgery and histopathology.

The term mucocoele of appendix was first described by Rokitansky in 1842 [2]. Higa et al preferred to consider all the mucocoeles as mucinous neoplasms within a clinico-pathological spectrum comprising of mucosal hyperplasia, mucinous cystadenoma and mucinous...
The finding of appendiceal mucocoele should prompt a search for an association of adenocarcinoma of the colon (6 times increase incidence). There are associations of mucocoele of the appendix with mucous secreting tumor of the ovary [1].

The differential diagnosis includes intraperitoneal or extraperitoneal lesions. Intra-peritoneal masses to consider include ovarian cysts and tumors, duplication cysts, mesentric and omental cysts, mesentric hematoma or tumor, and abdominal abscess. Of the retroperitoneal disorders to be considered, retroperitoneal inflammation, tumor or haemorrhages are important. Renal cyst and pancreatic pseudocyst also should be included.

Imaging usually differentiate between these entities and presence of a retrocaecal mass requires consideration of appendiceal pathology, as 65% of appendices lie in this position [1,4].

References