Letters to the Editor

Broesike hernia: long-standing incharacteristic abdominal pain

Dear Editor,

A 75-year-old woman presented with a three-year history of nonspecific, moderate, intermittent mesogastric pain, similar to colic, with little improvement after medication, accompanied by nausea and postprandial fullness. She had a history of abdominal surgery, with a resurgence of symptoms six months prior to seeking treatment at our facility, and the attending physician therefore requested a multidetector computed tomography (MDCT) scan (Figure 1) for diagnostic purposes. On MDCT, the first, second, and third portions of the duodenal arch were seen to be in their normal positions, whereas the fourth portion passed through the right mesocolic fossa (Broesike hernia), with no signs of obstruction of the jejunal loop in the MDCT examination, with high suspicion due to the intermittent aspect of this finding.

The greater anatomical characterization capacity of MDCT and the development of diagnostic imaging methods have made the study of internal abdominal hernias more accurate, given that intermittent symptoms could exclude their diagnosis (1–3). Caused by congenital mechanisms, surgery, trauma, inflammation or poor circulation, they have several subclassifications (2–4).

REFERENCES

1. Ribeiro TA, Cordoval LTC, Viana Neto EM, et al. Síndrome de Boerhaave: diagnóstico diferencial de dor toracoabdominal. Radiol Bras. 2018;51:124–5.
2. Cottani M. Signo de la V de Naclerio. RAR. 2012;76:263.
3. Bejvan SM, Godwin JD. Pneumomediastinum: old signs and new signs. AJR Am J Roentgenol. 1996;166:1041–8.
4. Lomoschitz FM, Linnauf KF, Mann FA. Pneumomediastinum without pneumothorax caused by esophageal rupture. AJR Am J Roentgenol. 2001;177:1416.
5. Bladergroen MB, Lowe JE, Postlethwait RW. Diagnosis and recommended management of esophageal perforation and rupture. Ann Thorac Surg. 1986;42:235–9.

Claudio Marcio Amaral de Oliveira Lima1, Waldyr Maymone2, Tatiana Mendonça Fazecas2
1. Hospital Municipal Jesus, Departamento de Radiologia, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. Correspondence: Dr. Claudio Marcio Amaral de Oliveira Lima. Rua Queiroz Júnior, 181/1002, Barra da Tijuca. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil, 22775-170. E-mail: cmaolima@gmail.com.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/0100-3984.2018.0087

Right paraduodenal (or Broesike) hernia is defined as one in which the small bowel is concentrated in the peritoneal cavity, adjacent to the ligament of Treitz (2,4). They develop through the Waldeyer fossa, resulting from fusion failure of the ascending mesocolon with posterior parietal peritoneum (3) (Figure 2).

Despite affecting approximately 50% of patients diagnosed with internal hernia, paraduodenal hernias tend to affect elderly males in larger proportions, although Broesike hernias account for 25% of such cases, most frequently being attributable to malrotation of the small bowel (1–3,5). Certainly underdiagnosed, Broesike hernia is a rare cause of intestinal obstruction and is difficult to diagnose from a clinical, surgical, and radiological perspective; a delay in its diagnosis leads to catastrophic outcomes, such as acute obstruction of the small bowel, ischemia, and intestinal perforation (1–2,6). It can be asymptomatic or provoke symptoms ranging from vague constant epigastric pain to intermittent colic-like periumbilical pain (accompanied by nausea and recurrent intestinal obstruction) to incarceration or strangulation. Its typically intermittent symptoms make the medical team question the veracity of patient complaints (5).

When identified by MDCT, hernia with intestinal subocclusion shows an “encapsulated” mass of dilated small bowel between the pancreas and stomach, to the right of the ligament of Treitz (2,5). In general, the mass dislocates the posterior wall of the stomach, the duodenal flexure, and (inferiorly) the transverse colon. There is engorgement of the mesenteric vessels,

Figure 1. Contrast-enhanced portal-phase MDCT of the abdomen, in the axial plane (A) and coronal plane (B). Note the normally positioned third portion of the duodenal arch and the fourth portion passing through the right mesocolic fossa (arrow to the right), representing a mobile ligament of Treitz, and with jejunal loops predominantly on the right side. C: MIP reconstruction in the coronal plane, showing fewer small bowel loops to the left of the mesenteric vessels.
which supply segments of the small bowel in the area of the hernia defect\(^3,5\). In the case described here, MDCT revealed laterally insinuated loops clustered in the region of the mesocolic fossa, with no significant distension or injury of the jejunal loops. The addition of contrast could increase the diagnostic accuracy of the radiological examinations.

Laparoscopic repair is a safe and effective method for the management of cases of Broesike hernia\(^7,8\). However, because the patient described here was at prohibitive surgical risk, we opted for clinical monitoring. At this writing, the patient has been followed at our facility for over six months, without any worsening of her symptoms.

REFERENCES
1. Oliveira LM, Pupulim LFD, Mesquita S, et al. Hérnia abdominal interna de ceco e colon ascendente através do forame de Winslow [Qual o seu diagnóstico?]\(^1\). Radiol Bras. 2002;35(2):v–vi.
2. Mathieu D, Luciani A; GERMAD Group. Internal abdominal herniations. AJR Am J Roentgenol. 2004;183:397–404.
3. Doishita S, Takeshita T, Uchima Y, et al. Internal hernias in the era of multidetector CT: correlation of imaging and surgical findings. Radiographics. 2016;36:88–106.
4. Fukunaga M, Kidokoro A, Iba T, et al. Laparoscopic surgery for left paraduodenal hernia. J Laparoendosc Adv Surg Tech A. 2004;14:111–5.
5. Takeyama N, Gokan T, Ohgiya Y, et al. CT of internal hernias. Radiographics. 2005;25:997–1015.
6. Mehra R, Pujahari AK. Right paraduodenal hernia: report of two cases and review of literature. Gastroenterol Rep (Oxf). 2016;4:168–71.
7. Winder JS, Pauli EM, Haluck RS. Laparoscopic repair of a left-sided paraduodenal hernia. Surg Endosc. 2016;30:3636–47.
8. Lahrunie EM, Marchiori E. Intestinal obstruction after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass by Higa’s technique for treatment of morbid obesity: radiological aspects. Radiol Bras. 2007;40:161–5.

Aline Christina Alves Pires\(^1\), Diogo Costa Oliveira\(^2\), Marcelo Souto Nacif\(^1\), Marcelo Fontalvo Martin\(^1\), João Maurício Canavezi Indiani\(^2\)

1. Unidade de Radiologia Clínica (URC), São José dos Campos, SP, Brazil. 2. Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF), Niterói, RJ, Brazil. Correspondence: Dra. Aline Christina Alves Pires. Unidade de Radiologia Clínica. Rua Teopompo de Vasconcelos, 245, Vila Atyana. São José dos Campos, SP, Brazil, 12243-830. E-mail: alinnechrispires@gmail.com.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/0100-3984.2017.0001

Thickening of the greater auricular nerve in leprosy: clinical correlation by ultrasound

Dear Editor,

A 39-year-old man presented with a two-month history of painful erythematous-violet nodular lesions on his trunk and lower limbs, accompanied by arthralgia in the small joints of the hands, wrists, ankles, and elbows, with morning stiffness for about an hour that improved with movement. He reported having experiencing similar, self-limited episodes for the last year and a half, each episode lasting for approximately five days and accompanied by significant weight loss. On physical examination, the patient was malnourished, with lamellar desquamation and mobile nodules of approximately 3 cm, together with erythematous-violet lesions on the anterior surface of thighs, just above the knees bilaterally and at the left thoracoabdominal junction. He also had gross thickening of the fibular and ulnar nerves bilaterally, as well as of the right greater auricular nerve (Figure 1). The diagnosis of lepromatous leprosy was confirmed by skin biopsy. We assessed the peripheral nerves by ultrasound (Figure 2).

A 39-year-old man presented with a two-month history of painful erythematous-violet nodular lesions on his trunk and lower limbs, accompanied by arthralgia in the small joints of the hands, wrists, ankles, and elbows, with morning stiffness for about an hour that improved with movement. He reported having experiencing similar, self-limited episodes for the last year and a half, each episode lasting for approximately five days and accompanied by significant weight loss. On physical examination, the patient was malnourished, with lamellar desquamation and mobile nodules of approximately 3 cm, together with erythematous-violet lesions on the anterior surface of thighs, just above the knees bilaterally and at the left thoracoabdominal junction. He also had gross thickening of the fibular and ulnar nerves bilaterally, as well as of the right greater auricular nerve (Figure 1). The diagnosis of lepromatous leprosy was confirmed by skin biopsy. We assessed the peripheral nerves by ultrasound (Figure 2).