

Clinical Image

Epiploic Appendagitis: A Frequent Cause of Misdiagnosis

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Acute epiploic appendagitis is a rare self-limited cause of acute abdominal pain, resulting from the torsion of the colonic appendage around itself. It is a critical differential diagnosis as the clinical presentation often mimics that of appendicitis or diverticulitis [1].

It usually manifests with sudden onset of lower quadrant pain, with a localized tenderness on examination, seldom are other symptoms present such as fever, diarrhea, and vomiting [2].

Unenhanced CT images show a well-circumscribed ovoid mass in the coeco-appendicular junction or adjacent to the left colon, containing fat surrounded by hyperdense ring in a “shuttle” shape, with fat stranding of the visceral peritoneum surrounding the epiploic appendage. A central high density dot can also be seen as a “dot sign”, which is highly evocative of venous thrombus within an inflamed epiploic appendage [3].

A correct identification of appendagitis is crucial as it mimics acute abdominal diseases for which surgery is required.

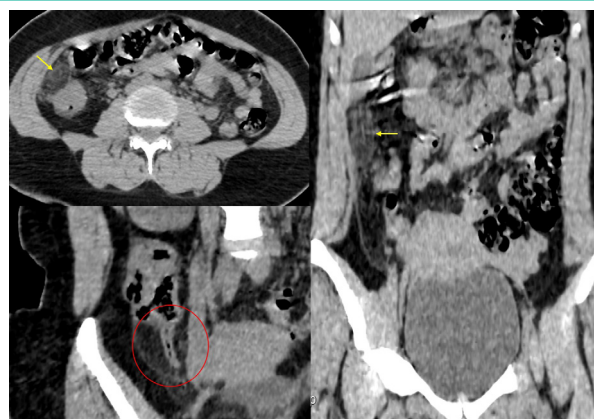


Figure 1: Shuttle sign shown in axial and coronal plan (Yellow arrow) with normal appendix (Red circle).

References

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