

## Postrenal acute kidney injury and abdominal compartment syndrome associated with bladder pressure: type III rectus sheath hematoma

Emre Bozdağ, Ebubekir Gündeş, Ulaş Aday, Hüseyin Çiyiltepe, Durmuş Ali Çetin, Selçuk Gülmez, Aziz Serkan Senger

Gastroenterological Surgery Department, Kartal Koşuyolu High Speciality and Training Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey

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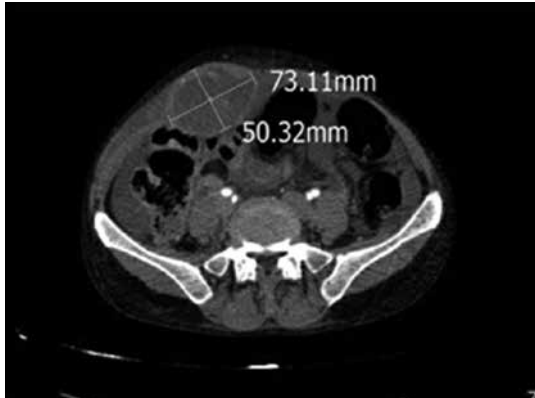
**Corresponding author:**

Ebubekir Gündeş  
Gastroenterological Surgery  
Department  
Kartal Koşuyolu  
High Speciality and  
Training Hospital  
Denizer cad. No: 22  
34000 Istanbul, Turkey  
Phone: +90 5058606740  
E-mail: ebubekir82@hotmail.com

Clinically speaking, spontaneous rectus sheath hematoma (RSH), a rare cause of acute abdominal pain, is usually a self-limiting condition [1]. However, failure to diagnose it can result in death. Patients taking anticoagulants should be especially aware of its symptoms. It is most commonly observed on the right side below the umbilicus and almost always presents as unilateral [2]. The RSH is two or three times more common in females than in males. Although there are many possible risk factors, the current popularity of anticoagulant treatment has resulted in an increase in the number of spontaneous cases of RSH being reported [3, 4].

In the current case, a 58-year-old female patient presented to the cardiovascular surgery clinic with complaints of dyspnea and fatigue. The patient was admitted with heart failure and aortic stenosis. Her medical history included mitral valve operations 12 and 19 years ago, and she was taking warfarin at a dose of 5 mg/day. Due to the sudden onset of swelling and fullness in the right lower quadrant during this hospital admission, we were consulted regarding her condition. There was no trauma in the patient's medical history, and no use of anticoagulants. During the physical examination, her general condition was observed to be moderate, normotensive, and normocardic. However, there was tenderness to palpation observed on the right lower abdominal quadrant, as well as a detectable mass with unclear borders. Bowel sounds were normoactive. Laboratory values were as follows: hemoglobin: 8.3 g/dl; hematocrit (hct): 27%; international normalized ratio (INR) 6.14 min; activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT): 45.6 s; leukocytes: 35 400  $\mu$ l; platelets: 306 000  $\mu$ l; urea: 40 g/dl; creatinine: 0.8 mg/dl. Abdominal tomography with intravenous contrast was performed on the patient. The tomography revealed a type I RSH in the right lower quadrant (Figure 1). With these findings the patient was followed up.

It was observed that the fullness in the right lower quadrant had advanced to the bilateral lower quadrant and the upper limit of the umbilicus. Furthermore, the hct level had decreased to 20% and the creatinine level had increased to 1.8 mg/dl. During this time, 4 units of red blood cells were transfused to the patient. In the same period hourly urine output decreased, and 6 h later the patient was unable to urinate at all. However, during this period there was no deterioration of vital signs (pulse rate was 90–100/min and arterial blood pressure was around



**Figure 1.** Image of first computed tomography (type I RSH)



**Figure 2.** Image of second computed tomography (type III RSH)



**Figure 3.** Second computed tomography image of bilateral renal pelvic grade 2–3 hydronephrosis

135/70). Additionally, intra-abdominal pressure measurements were taken in order to differentiate between abdominal distention and a possible case of abdominal compartment syndrome. Sterile isotonic was administered to the emptied bladder with a branule inserted on a Foley catheter, but failed due to high pressure. The process was repeated several times, but failed in each instance. In order to check for a hematoma, an unenhanced computed tomography (CT) scan was performed on the patient with low hct, severe progression on physical examination and stable vital signs. During the tomography, an enlarged hematoma (type III RSH) was detected that filled the bilateral lower quadrants, compressing the bladder and causing grade 2–3 hydronephrosis in both kidneys (Figures 2–3).

The patient was operated on under urgent conditions, considering the diagnoses of abdominal compartment syndrome and postrenal acute kidney injury. Approximately 3000 ml of hematoma-coagulum was evacuated from under the rectus muscle without opening the parietal peritoneum. There was no active bleeding in vessels. In the postoperative follow-ups after decompression,

the patient was seen to have sufficient urinary output. Her urea and creatinine values were also normal. On the 11<sup>th</sup> postoperative day, the patient was discharged without any complications.

In conclusion, RSH is usually a self-limiting condition that can lead to potentially serious complications, including obstructive uropathy [1] and abdominal compartment syndrome [2]. As RSH mostly limits itself, treatment is conservative. However, surgical treatment is indicated for large hematomas creating hemodynamic deterioration and complex hematomas (peritoneal rupture, infection). In addition to these indications, surgery may also be recommended for the treatment of gross hematomas that may cause obstructive uropathy and abdominal compartment syndrome [3, 4].

#### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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