

Pancreatic and Hepatic Pseudocyst Combination in a Patient with Pancreatitis

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INTRODUCTION

- Pancreatic pseudocysts are common occurrences after episodes of acute pancreatitis.
- Up to 20% of pseudocysts are extra-pancreatic throughout the abdomen including intrahepatic.
- We report this unique case with combined pancreatic and intrahepatic pseudocysts in a patient with pancreatitis.

CASE DESCRIPTION

- A 56-year-old Caucasian female with history of alcoholism and chronic pancreatitis presented with epigastric pain.
- Labs showed an elevated lipase of 217 IU/L (13-60), normal total bilirubin and transaminases, hemoglobin of 9.1 g/dL (11.5-15), and slight leukocytosis 12.6 K/uL (3.7-10.4).
- Prior CT scan showed pseudocysts in the head and tail of the pancreas.
- CT scan this admission showed a decreased size of pseudocyst in the pancreatic head from 2.5 cm to 2.2 cm and pancreatic tail from 4.2 cm to 3.7 cm.
- It also showed two subcapsular fluid collections in the left lobe of the liver measuring 9 X 5 X 2 cm and 9 X 7 X 3 cm.
- Percutaneous drainage of the hepatic cysts with the placement of a drainage catheter was performed by IR.



Figure 1 – Axial CT showing previous pancreatic pseudocyst prior to admission



Figure 2 – Axial CT showing new hepatic pseudocyst adjacent to falciform ligament during admission

- 50 mL of bilious appearing fluid was drained with negative cultures and amylase level of 1,765 U/L. The patient's pain improved and subsequent CT a few weeks after discharge showed a decrease in the size of the hepatic cysts.



Figure 3 - Axial CT showing drain in hepatic pseudocyst

DISCUSSION

- This is the first documented case of combined pancreatic and intrahepatic pseudocyst. Elevated amylase level in the hepatic fluid analysis confirms the diagnosis.
- The size of the pancreatic pseudocyst decreased as the hepatic pseudocyst increased because of fluid tracking in the pre-renal space or along the hepato-gastric ligament.

REFERENCES

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