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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A COMPLEX CASE OF EMPHYSEMATOUS CHOLECYSTITIS IN AN ELDERLY PATIENT: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

Emphysematous cholecystitis is a rare but serious condition that requires early diagnosis and prompt treatment. We present a case of an 82-year-old patient with a history of hypertension and diabetes who was admitted with septic shock and acute renal failure secondary to emphysematous cholecystitis confirmed on CT scan. After resuscitation and antibiotic therapy, the patient underwent cholecystectomy with favorable outcomes.

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Introduction:-

Emphysematous cholecystitis is a rare form of acute cholecystitis characterized by the presence of gas within the gallbladder wall or lumen, usually caused by gas-forming bacteria. It is associated with a high mortality rate and requires prompt diagnosis and management. We present a case of emphysematous cholecystitis in an elderly patient with relevant comorbidities.

Case Report:

Our patient is an 82-year-old male with a history of treated hypertension and insulin-dependent diabetes, who presented a septic shock and biochemical evidence of infectious syndrome and acute renal failure. Abdominal CT scan confirmed gas within the gallbladder wall and lumen associated small lithiasis (Figure 1). The patient was stabilized, resuscitative measures were instituted, and broad-spectrum antibiotic therapy was initiated. Subsequently, the patient underwent cholecystectomy and a perforated gallbladder was found (Figure 2).

Discussion:-

Emphysematous cholecystitis is a rare condition[1] with a poor prognosis if diagnosis and management are delayed. It is crucial for clinicians to consider emphysematous cholecystitis in the differential diagnosis of acute cholecystitis, especially in high-risk patients[2] [3]. Early recognition, resuscitative measures, and antibiotic therapy are essential[2]. Cholecystectomy is the definitive treatment, and prompt surgical intervention can lead to favorable outcomes[3]. Further research and awareness are needed to improve early diagnosis and management of this rare condition[4].

Conclusion:-

Emphysematous cholecystitis is a rare but serious condition that requires early diagnosis and prompt intervention. Despite its rarity, clinicians should consider emphysematous cholecystitis in the differential diagnosis of acute cholecystitis, particularly in high-risk patients. Early recognition and management are crucial in improving patient outcomes.

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Conflict of interest statement:

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Figures:-

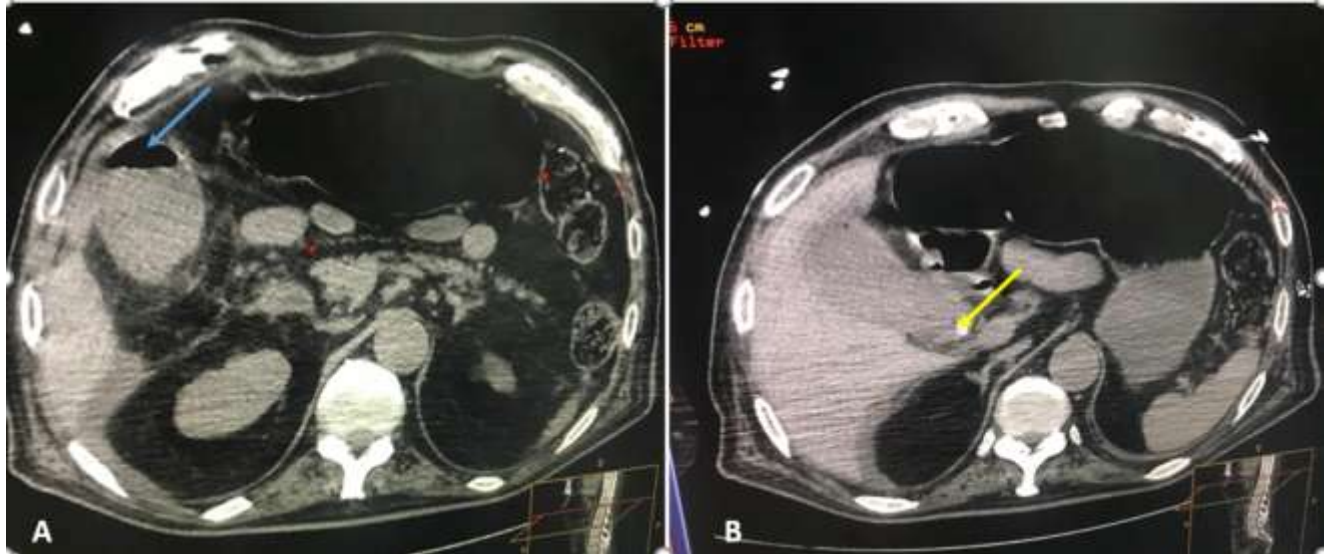


Figure 1:- Abdominal CT scan :A : intraluminal gas (blue arrow) , B : lithiasis (yellow arrow).

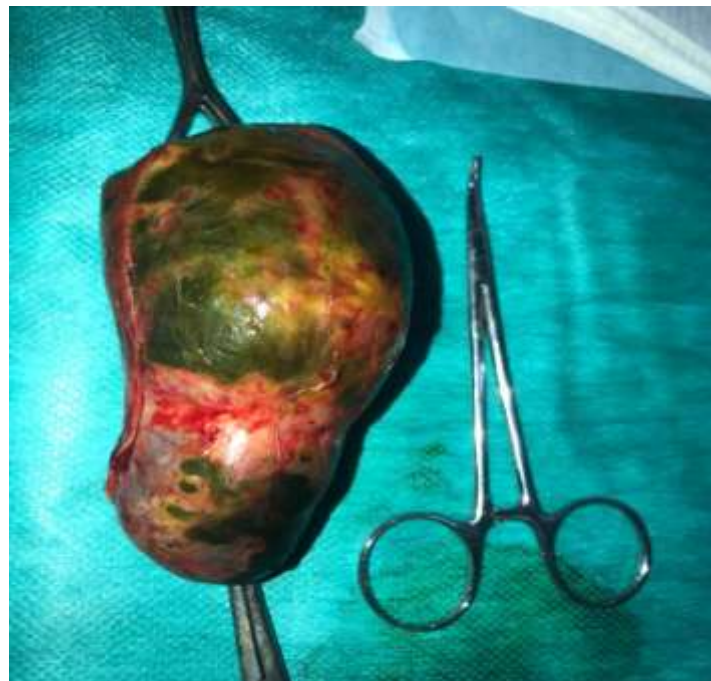


Figure 2:- Emphysematous and gangrenous gallbladder.

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