

A Shitty Thigh: A Rare Case of Fecal Leakage in The Thigh

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INTRODUCTION:

Thigh abscess is a commonly occurring pathology, particularly in patients with risk factors. We report a case of fecal incontinence in the thigh mimicking an abscess.

REPORT:

A 62-year-old man with advanced bladder carcinoma who had undergone radical cystectomy and ileal conduit. He presented with a sudden onset of painful swelling of left thigh and fever for one week.

On examination, he was septic and was immediately started on a broad-spectrum antibiotic. His infective markers were elevated. X-ray of left femur revealed extensive gas shadow. A contrast-enhanced CT scan of the thorax, abdomen, and pelvis revealed large, multiple rim-enhancing lesions with air locules in both iliopsoas muscles, with extension into pelvic extraperitoneal space and left thigh (Figure 2). There was also suspicion of a fistula communication between a bladder bed collection and the sigmoid colon.

An ultrasound-guided drainage procedure was performed on left thigh and iliopsoas muscles, which revealed presence of fecal material.

Due to advanced bladder carcinoma and poor general condition, the patient was deemed unfit to undergo any surgical procedure. A discussion was held with family members, and it was decided that the patient would receive care from the palliative team for comfort care. He eventually succumbed to the illness.

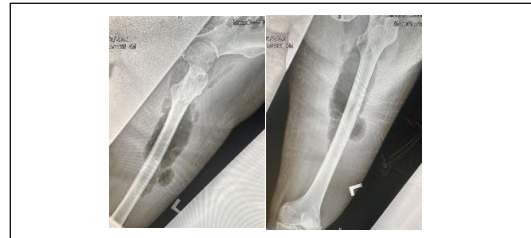


Figure 1: Gas shadow demonstrated in left femur X-ray.

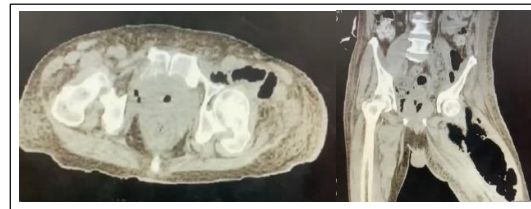


Figure 2: CT scan in axial and coronal cut showing multiloculated collections in left thigh.

CONCLUSION:

Leakage of fecal matter into the thigh is an unlikely diagnosis to consider initially. However, it should be suspected in patients who have a history of previous abdominal surgery or procedure, trauma, malignancy of abdominal organs, or inflammatory bowel disease, and present with swelling in the lower limb. The management of this condition will depend on the underlying cause and the patient's overall condition.

REFERENCES:

1. Huda, T., & Pandya, B. (2019). Treatment of Colocutaneous Fistula in the Left Thigh. *Surgery journal (New York, N.Y.)*, 5(3), e113–e119.