

Large appendicular mucocele

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Description

We present the case of an 87-year-old male patient with no relevant previous medical history. He first came into the emergency department with a 1-day history of right lower quadrant abdominal pain. He presented a dull and distended abdomen and the CT scan suggested the presence of a cecal volvulus (Figure 1). An open surgery was performed and a 15 cm cystic mass of the appendix without perforation was identified and a mucocele was suspected (Figure 2 & 3). We performed a successful appendicectomy and the histopathologic diagnosis was mucinous cystadenoma.

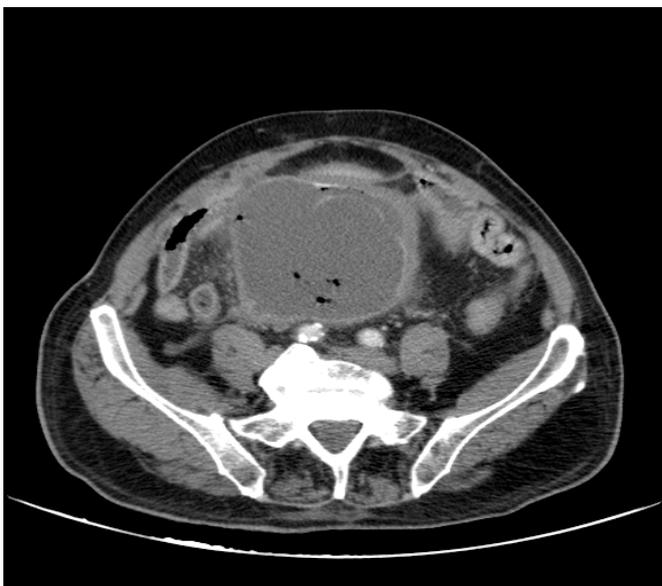


Figure 1

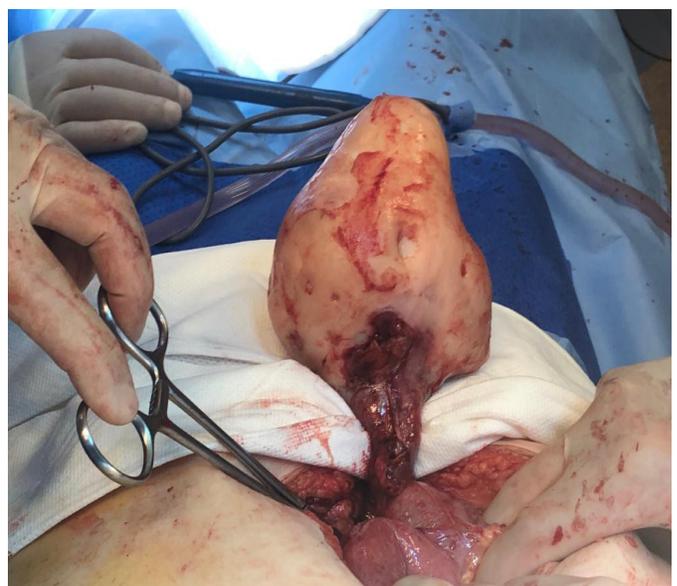


Figure 2



Figure 3

Discussion

Appendicular mucocele is a rare disease. The incidence is 0.2% to 0.7% of all appendectomied specimens. It is more frequent in women older than 50 years old and it consists in a dilatation of the lumen of the appendix as a result of an accumulation of mucoid material.

The clinical presentation is usually vague and can mimic other conditions making the pre-operative diagnosis difficult.

Histopathology is needed for definitive diagnosis and there are 4 histologic types: Retention cyst, mucosal hyperplasia, mucinous cystadenoma, and mucinous cystadenocarcinoma. Mucinous cystadenocarcinomas are less common than mucinous cystadenomas.

Conventional surgery is generally preferred to laparoscopic approach as the latter increases the risk of rupture.

Author contributions

Cristina Monteiro: Design of manuscript, research, manuscript revision and approval.

Aires Martins: Analysis, revision and approval.

Bruno Ribeiro da Silva: Analysis, revision and approval.

Alberto Midões: Director of General Surgery department, revision and approval.

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