

Giant appendicolith

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A 35-year-old man presented with persistent pain in right iliac fossa and nausea for one month. He did not have vomiting or urinary symptoms and had normal bowel habits. Physical examination revealed minimal tenderness in right iliac fossa. Microscopic urine analysis, complete blood count, and stool examination were within normal limits. Computed tomographic (CT) scan showed diffuse, eccentric wall thickening involving cecum and terminal ileum. There was a large laminated radio-opaque shadow medial to the base of the cecum, leading to a linear streak of gas containing smaller radio-opaque shadows.

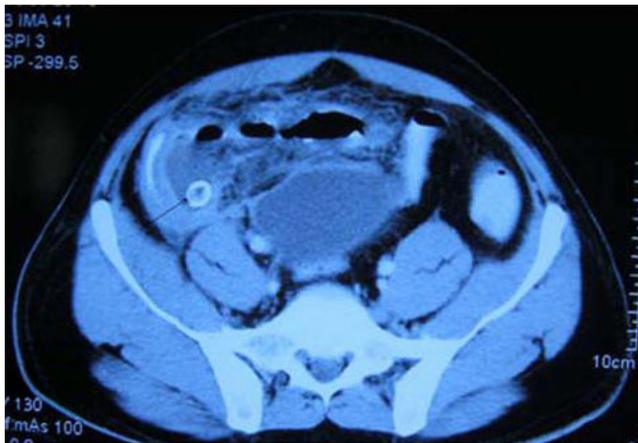


Fig. 1 Axial section of computed tomographic scan large laminated appendicolith seen medial to the base of the cecum

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Fig. 2 Giant appendicolith

There was a large multilocular fluid collection around the appendix extending towards the urinary bladder (Fig. 1). CT findings were suggestive of multiple appendicoliths with multilocular collection around appendix. He underwent diagnostic laparoscopy which demonstrated an appendicular lump (6 cm×6 cm). At laparotomy, an appendiceal mass formed of omentum, bowel loops and previously perforated retrocecal appendix were found. The base of appendix was sloughed off exposing the giant appendicolith measuring 2.1 cm (Fig. 2). The cecum was healthy. Histopathological examination showed acute appendicitis with peri-appendicitis.

The appendicoliths are calcified deposits in the appendix and are usually <1 cm in size. Giant appendicoliths (>2 cm) are rarely reported in literature [1].

Reference

1. Keating JP, Memon S. Giant appendicolith. *Gastrointest Endosc.* 2005;61:292–3.