



CLINICAL IMAGE

Giant splenic abscess caused by *Salmonella enterica*

Francesk Mulita¹  | Elias Liolis² | Levan Tchabashvili¹ | Fotios Seretis¹ |
Fotios Iliopoulos¹ | Nikolas Drakos¹ | Ioannis Maroulis¹ | Michail Vailas¹ 

¹Department of General Surgery, General University Hospital of Patras, Achaia, Greece

²Department of Internal Medicine, General University Hospital of Patras, Achaia, Greece

Correspondence

Francesk Mulita, Department of Surgery, General University Hospital of Patras, Achaia, Greece.
Email: oknarfmulita@hotmail.com

Abstract

Splenectomy is the gold standard for treating a splenic abscess, when percutaneous drainage fails or is less likely to be successful.

KEYWORDS

percutaneous drainage, *Salmonella enterica*, splenectomy, splenic abscess

1 | CASE DESCRIPTION

A 14-year-old boy with free medical history and no surgical intervention was admitted to our hospital with high-grade fever and abdominal pain lasting for 4 days. On examination, the patient's temperature was 39, heart rate was 105 beats per minute, blood pressure was 110/70 and respiratory rate was 12 breaths per minute. His abdomen was soft, without distension, and only mild tenderness in the upper left quadrant was found. The initial white blood cells were 11.77 K/ μ L, and C-reactive protein level was 20.8 U/L. Liver and renal function test and serum amylase were normal. A computed tomography (CT) of the abdomen showed a large abscess of the spleen, of an average size of 13 cm \times 9 cm (Figure 1).

Empirical treatment with meropenem and vancomycin was started, and percutaneous aspiration of the lesion was performed under CT guidance. The material was sent for culture, which led to the development of *Salmonella enterica*. Splenectomy was performed 38 days after percutaneous aspiration because of abscess's considerable size. The operation was completed successfully. The spleen weighed 362 g. Histopathology revealed a giant splenic epidermoid cyst with a wall consisting of fibrous tissue and accumulation of necrotic tissue.

Abscess of the spleen is a very rare clinical problem and carries very high mortality reaching more than 70%, if the diagnosis is missed.¹ According to the literature, treatment of splenic



FIGURE 1 Abdominal CT scan of a 14-year-old boy. The spleen contained a large single abscess of 13 cm \times 9 cm

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

© 2021 The Authors. *Clinical Case Reports* published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

abscess includes conservative measures as well as surgical intervention. In children and in cases of solitary abscesses with a thick wall, percutaneous aspiration may be performed. Otherwise, splenectomy is the preferred approach in most cases. However, treatment should be customized for each patient.²

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

FM, EL, LT, FS, FI and ND: contributed to the clinical data collection and prepared the case report. FM, IM and MV: contributed to the design of the case report presentation and performed the final revision of the manuscript.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

This report for a clinical image was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The collection and evaluation of all protected patient health information was performed in a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) complaint manner. A formal informed consent was obtained from the patient prior to the publication of this article.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data available on request from the authors.

ORCID

Francesk Mulita  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7198-2628>

Michail Vailas  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7357-6532>

REFERENCES

1. Lee MC, Lee CM. Splenic abscess: an uncommon entity with potentially life-threatening evolution. *Can J Infect Dis Med Microbiol.* 2018;2018:8610657. Published 2018 Jan 31. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2018/8610657>
2. Lee WS, Choi ST, Kim KK. Splenic abscess: a single institution study and review of the literature. *Yonsei Med J.* 2011;52(2):288-292. <https://doi.org/10.3349/ymj.2011.52.2.288>

How to cite this article: Mulita F, Liolis E, Tchabashvili L, et al. Giant splenic abscess caused by *Salmonella enterica*. *Clin Case Rep.* 2021;9:2498–2499. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ccr3.4003>