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Cardiology

A man with abdominal pain who collapsed

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INFORMED CONSENT: Informed consent was obtained from the patient's son.

1 | CASE PRESENTATION

A 79-year-old man with no remarkable medical history complained of sudden-onset severe abdominal pain while he was on a phone call with his friend and lost contact. When emergency medical personnel arrived, they found him at home lying on the floor gasping for air without a palpable pulsation. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was initiated immediately. Upon arrival at the emergency department, his initial heart rhythm was evaluated; pulseless electrical activity was noted. An ultrasound performed during resuscitation to identify possible reversible causes revealed a huge shrunken cyst in the upper abdomen surrounded by many free fluids (Figure 1, Video SE1).

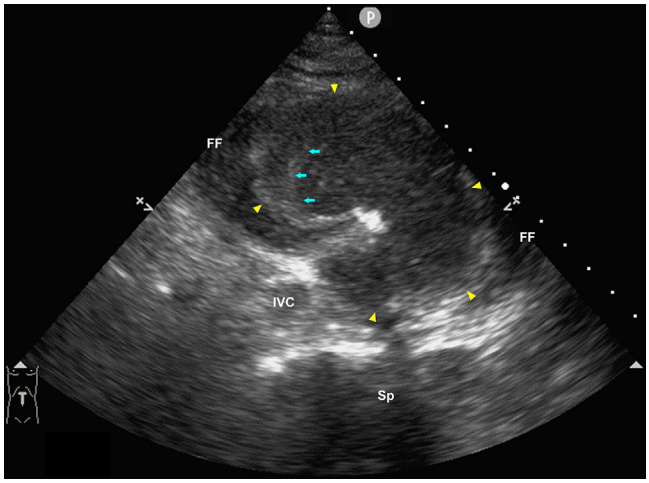

FIGURE 1 Transverse scan of the abdominal aorta showing a shrunken abdominal aortic aneurysm (yellow arrowheads) with a mural thrombus (blue arrows) surrounded by FF. FF, free fluids; IVC, inferior vena cava; Sp, spine

2 | DIAGNOSIS

2.1 | Ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)

Ruptured AAA is one of the most lethal aortic emergencies.[1] A previous study reported an overall mortality rate of >80% for out-of-hospital rupture cases.[2] Ruptured AAA should always be considered in patients in shock or even in those progressing to cardiac arrest with complaints of severe abdominal or back pain. Ultrasound is the first-choice procedure to rapidly identify AAA and facilitate early decision making.[3,4] In our case, considering the disease's high mortality rate and the patient's advanced age, his son agreed to terminate all resuscitation efforts.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of the article at the publisher's website.

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