

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

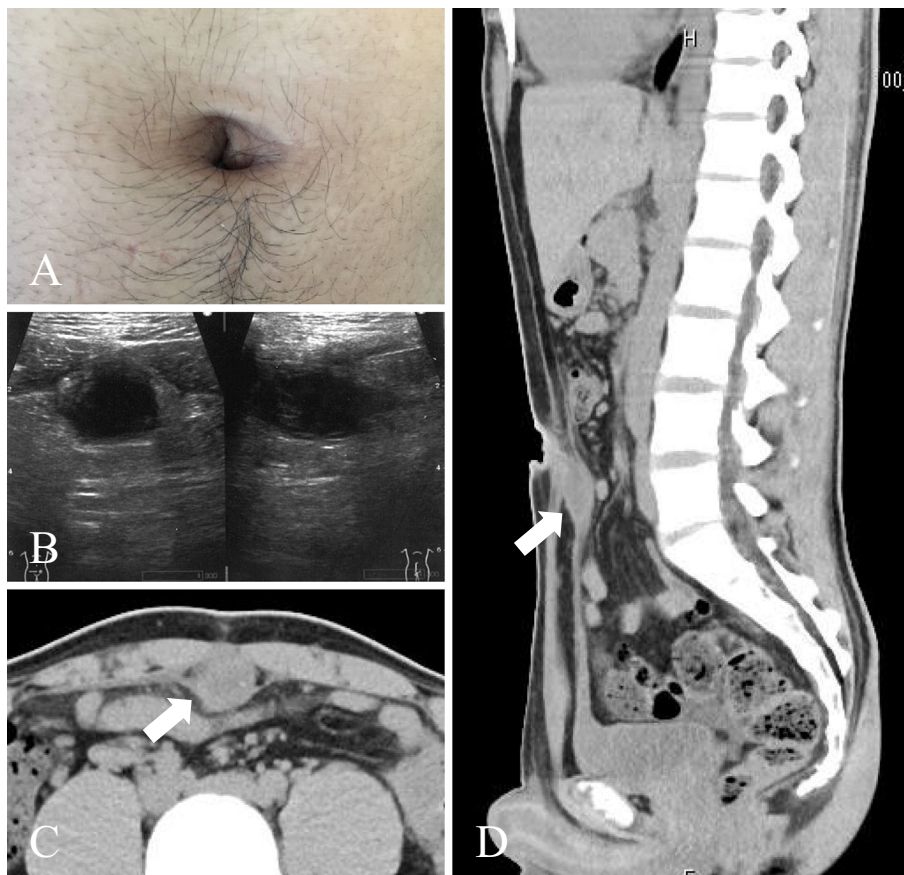
A Case of an Urachal Remnant Abscess without Omphalitis

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Key words: urachal remnant, abscess, omphalitis, Carnett's sign

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Picture.

A 20-year-old Japanese man presented with a three-day history of progressive lower abdominal pain and low-grade fever. He had no nausea, diarrhea, or urinary symptoms. Physical examination found the abdomen to be soft and flat. The umbilicus appeared to be normal without any discharge or swelling (Picture A). Percussion tenderness and the heel drop test (a test for intraperitoneal tenderness) were positive below the umbilicus area. Carnett's sign (a test for parietal tenderness) was also positive. Abdominal ultrasonography

revealed a hypoechoic lesion under the rectus muscle (Picture B), and a computed tomography scan confirmed this diagnosis (Picture C, D).

Although pus discharge from the umbilicus is an important clinical clue that can lead to a diagnosis of an urachal abscess (1), a few patients show no signs of omphalitis (2). In this case, the physical findings suggested an abnormality in the midline space between the peritoneum and the abdominal wall.

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The author states that he has no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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