

[ PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE ]

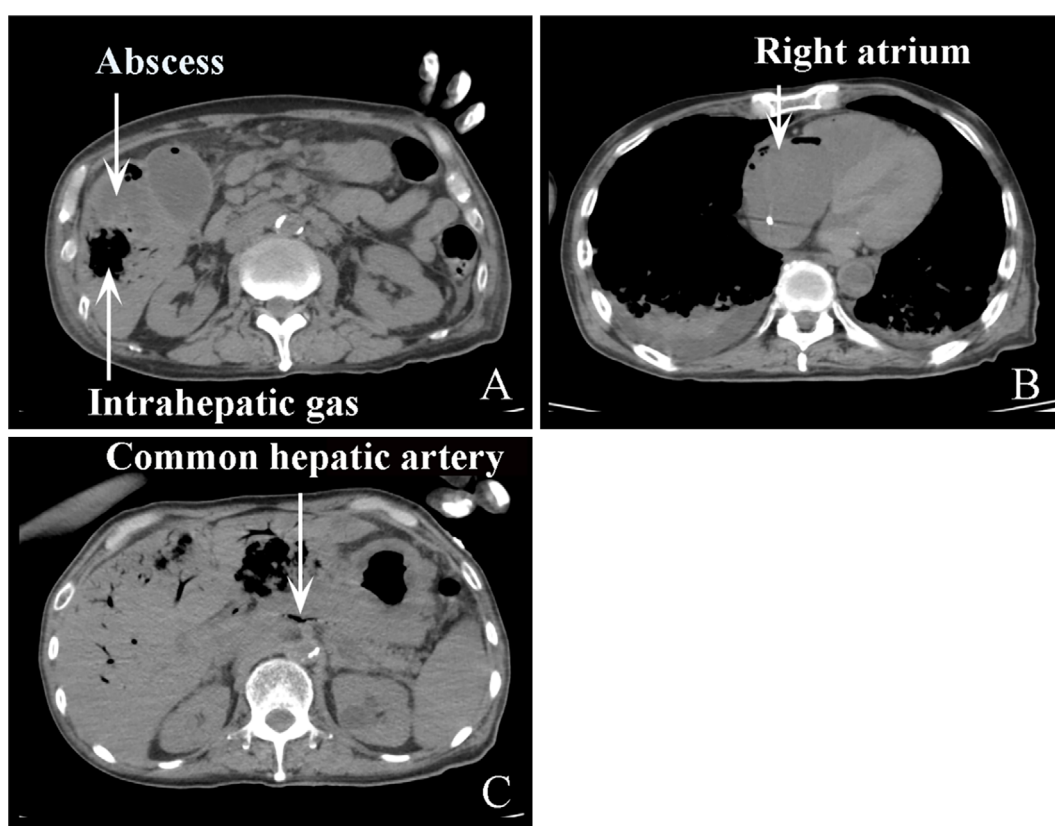
## Postmortem Intravascular Gas Caused by Antemortem Bacterial Sepsis

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**Key words:** autopsy imaging, computed tomography, gas productive bacteria, intravascular gas, sepsis

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**Picture.**

In diabetic patients, septicemia with intravascular gas and liver abscess with intrahepatic gas occur at rates of 4% and 16%, respectively, being mainly induced by *E. coli*, *Clostridium*, and *Klebsiella* (1). We herein report the gas images of postmortem computed tomography [autopsy imaging (Ai)] due to antemortem bacterial sepsis. A 69-year-old dia-

betic man with advanced gastric cancer had developed a high fever for several days prior to death. No resuscitation was performed. Ai performed two hours after death revealed the accumulation of gas in the liver (Picture A), right atrium (Picture B), and arteries (Picture C). All bacterial cultures from the liver abscess and blood samples in the right atrium

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and aorta at the autopsy showed *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae* and *E. faecalis*. Autopsies rarely recognize the existence of intravascular gas. Ai findings of intravascular gas among in-hospital deaths may be the result of not only putrefaction and resuscitation (2) but newly observed bacterial sepsis.

We obtained informed consent from the bereaved.

**The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).**

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