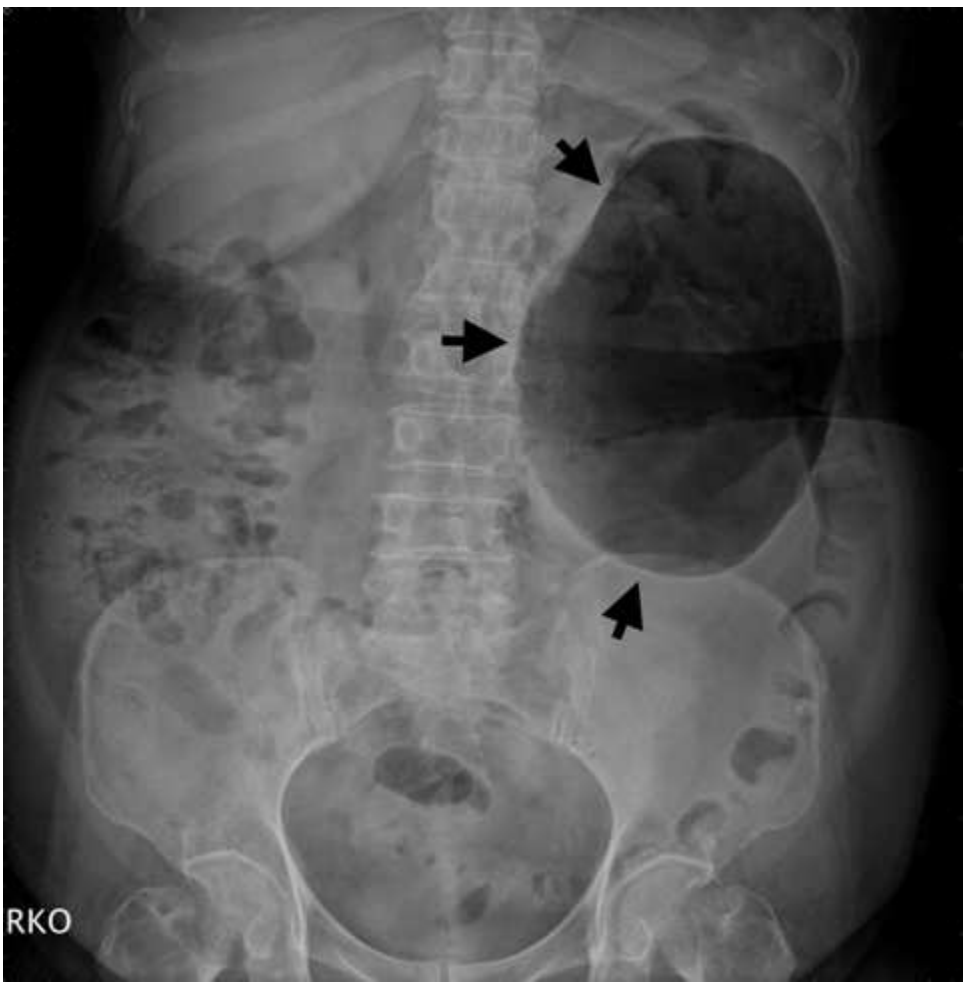


INTERNAL  MEDICINE**Emphysematous perirenal abscess mimicking a gastric gas bubble**

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Keywords:	emphysematous perirenal abscess, diabetes mellitus

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Picture 1. Abdominal radiograph revealed a big gas bubble in the left upper abdomen with normal distribution of colonic gas (arrows)
169x171mm (72 x 72 DPI)



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Emphysematous perirenal abscess mimicking a gastric gas bubble

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No conflicts of interest

Keywords: emphysematous perirenal abscess, diabetes mellitus

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4 A 65-year-old woman with diabetes mellitus and hypertension presented with a
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7 2-week complaint of left flank pain and intermittent fever. The patient stated no
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10 vomiting or diarrhea. Abdominal radiograph revealed a big gas bubble in the left
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13 upper abdomen with normal distribution of colonic gas (Picture 1, arrows). Chest
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16 radiograph demonstrated the gas bubble with an air-fluid level. A gastric gas bubble
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19 was suspected initially. However, the distance between the left diaphragm and the top
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22 of gas bubble was greater than 3 centimeter. Abdominal computed tomography (CT)
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25 scan confirmed a big emphysematous abscess in the left perirenal space compressing
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28 the left renal parenchyma (Picture 2, arrows). This patient was treated with
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31 percutaneous abscess drainage and broad-spectrum intravenous antibiotics. Follow-up
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34 CT one month later showed complete resolution of the abscess, and then the
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37 percutaneous drainage tube was removed.
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41 Emphysematous perirenal abscess is an infection associated with gas formation
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44 surrounding one or both kidneys. It is a rare and life-threatening disease with a high
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47 mortality rate. Diabetes mellitus and urolithiasis are the major risk factors for
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50 emphysematous perirenal abscess (1). In addition, most patients were women and
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53 most patients were over age 60 and diabetic. *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella*
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56 *pneumoniae* are the most common pathogens of emphysematous perirenal abscess (1).
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59 In the treatment of emphysematous perirenal abscess, appropriate medical treatment
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4 should be initiated, including systemic antibiotics and well control diabetic, etc., and

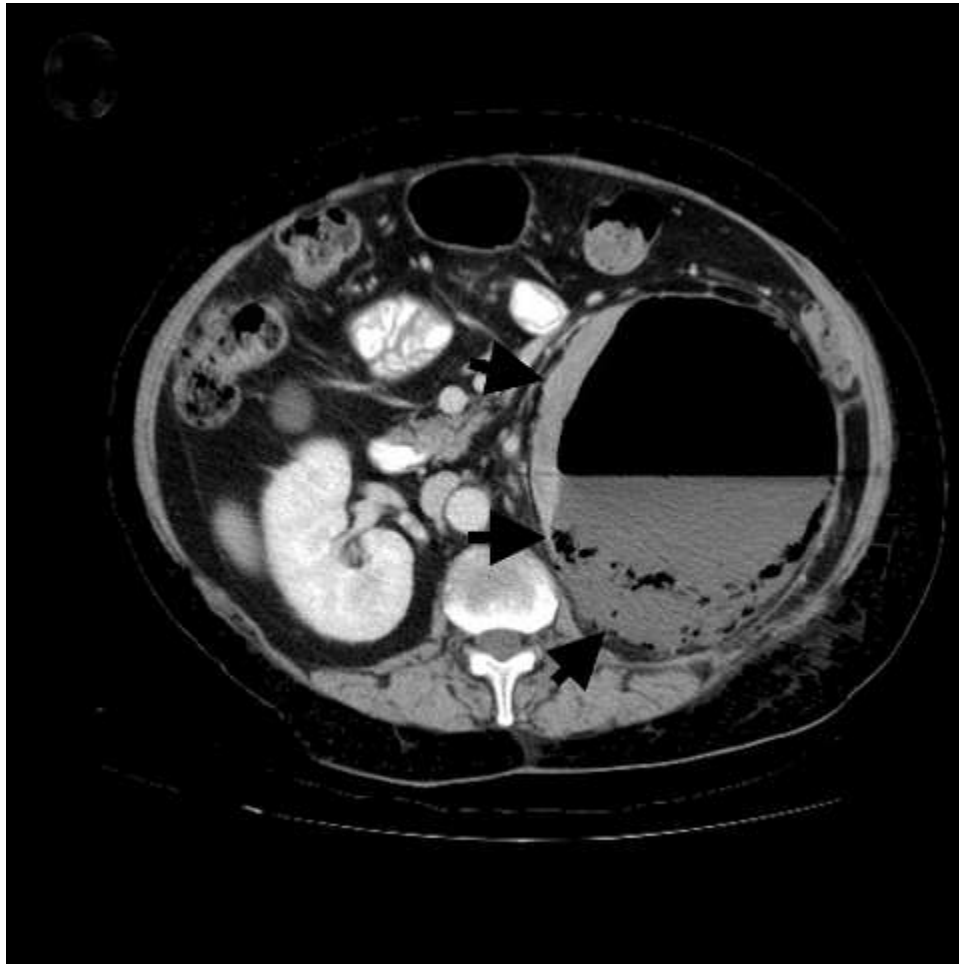
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7 immediate drainage or surgical intervention should not be delayed (2).
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Picture 2. Abdominal computed tomography scan confirmed a big emphysematous abscess in the left perirenal space compressing the left renal parenchyma
169x169mm (72 x 72 DPI)

