

septum (sensitivity 96%, specificity 100%) and rectal infiltration (sensitivity 92%, specificity 66%).¹⁹

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Non-traumatic rupture of malarial spleen

Introduction

Blunt abdominal trauma is the most common cause of splenic rupture. Non-traumatic splenic rupture is rare and occurs in a diseased spleen. Among the non-traumatic causes, haematological malignancy is the leading cause of splenic rupture; others being infection, malignancy, vascular, genetic or haematological disorders.¹ However, in countries where malaria is endemic, it outnumbers haematological malignancy as the leading cause of splenic rupture.^{1,2} We report a case of non-traumatic rupture of the spleen with a large subcapsular splenic haematoma and haemoperitoneum in a patient suffering from acute malaria.

Case report

A 27-year-old man presented to the emergency department with pain in the left hypochondrium and distention of the abdomen. The patient gave a history of intermittent high-grade fever with chills and rigor for the past 4 days. There was no

history of any trauma or abnormal bleeding tendency. The patient was receiving antimalarial treatment for diagnosed *Plasmodium vivax* infection (seen on peripheral blood smear), which was prescribed to him by a local physician. On clinical examination, the patient had pallor and tachycardia with a normal blood pressure and local tenderness in the left hypochondrium, but there was no abdominal guarding or rigidity. Blood/serum profile showed dimorphic anaemia with increased serum bilirubin level (2.7 mg/dL) and low platelet count (90,000/dL). The Widal test was negative.

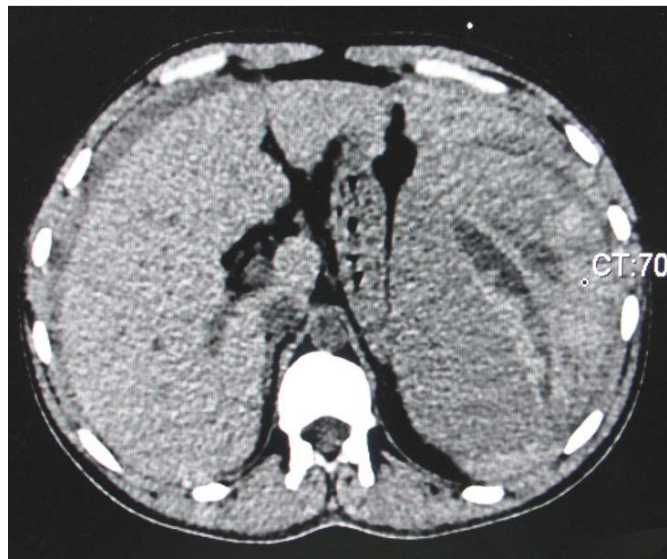


Figure 1: Non-contrast axial section of the upper abdomen showing a large, hyperdense subcapsular splenic haematoma (HU-70) with areas of liquefaction and mild perihepatic free fluid.

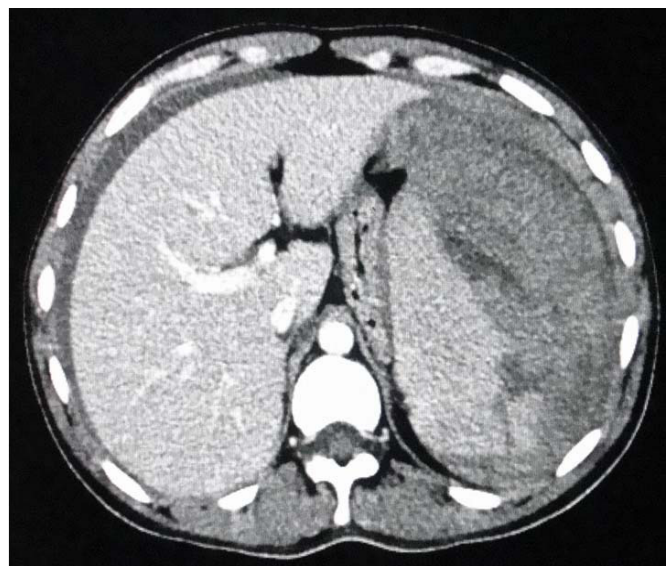


Figure 2: Contrast-enhanced axial section showing non-enhancing, subcapsular haematoma producing mass effect on the normally enhancing spleen. A focal laceration in the lateral surface of the spleen can also be noted.

Ultrasonography (USG) revealed a large, subcapsular splenic haematoma with free fluid in the abdomen consistent with haemoperitoneum. Computed tomography (CT) scan confirmed the presence of a large, subcapsular splenic haematoma (hyperdense on non-contrast CT scan, 70 Hounsfield units) with extension into the perisplenic and left subdiaphragmatic region) with free fluid in the abdomen (**Figures 1–3**). The patient underwent an urgent splenectomy and the histopathology

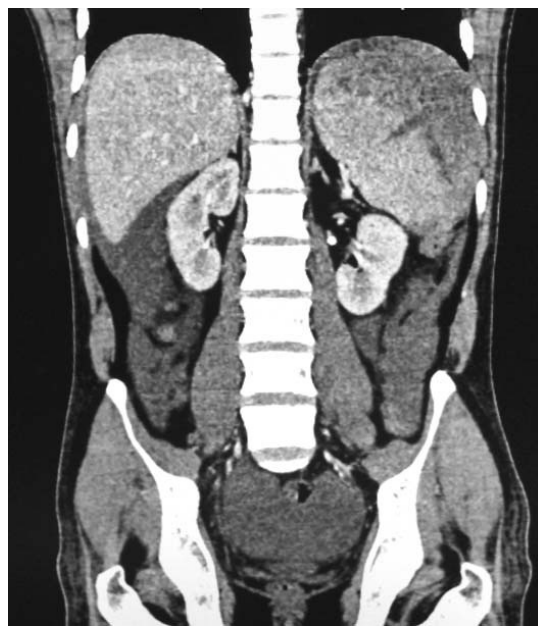


Figure 3: Contrast-enhanced coronal scan showing the rent in the superolateral surface of the spleen with a large subcapsular haematoma with associated haemoperitoneum.

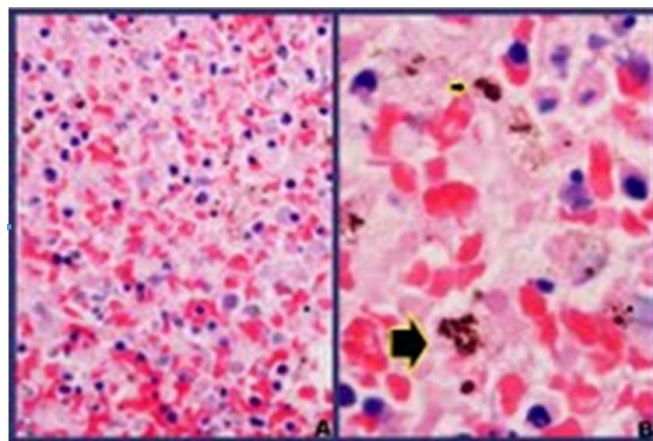


Figure 4: Microscopic examination of the spleen (H&E stain) showing (A) splenic sinusoids with large areas of haemorrhage and some brownish black pigment (X40). (B) The pigment is better seen on higher magnification which is brown black, non-refractile and is seen in sinusoidal macrophages (large arrow) and red blood cells (small arrow). The pigment was negative for iron stains (figures not shown), thus confirming it as malarial pigment.

report revealed the presence of malarial pigment in the ruptured spleen (**Figure 4**).

Discussion

Malaria is a parasitic infection caused by *Plasmodium* species. In India, *P. vivax* accounts for approximately 55% of cases whereas 40%–42% of cases are caused by *P. falciparum* which is most frequently associated with severe complicated malaria.¹ Infections by other two species are often subclinical and associated with fewer complications. However, splenic complications are commonly associated with non-falciparum species especially *P. vivax*. They occur in up to 2% of cases.^{3,4} Patients may present with left hypochondriac pain which may be due to infarct in an enlarged spleen, trauma to an enlarged spleen and rarely rupture of the spleen. Most cases of splenic rupture occur during acute infection. Although there is considerable splenomegaly in chronic malaria, rupture is uncommon as excessive fibrosis acts as a protective barrier against rupture. In cases with acute disease, there is rapid enlargement and stretching of splenic capsule secondary to vascular congestion and cellular hyperplasia, and the lack of fibrosis predisposes to splenic rupture. Diagnosis should always be suspected in a patient from an endemic region who presents with rapid onset of hypotension and severe left hypochondrial pain. Abdominal USG is a rapid bedside modality for assessing the severity of splenic rupture, amount of subcapsular and intraperitoneal haematoma. It also helps to exclude other causes which may present with left hypochondrial pain such as left-sided pleural pathology, pancreatitis and renal calculi. In haemodynamically stable patients, CT scan can be performed to delineate the findings and a better assessment of their severity.²⁻⁵

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Enteral stenting using the rendezvous technique

Introduction

We report a rare case of management of metastatic carcinoma colon with postoperative recurrence in a patient who had presented with anastomotic stricture and acute intestinal obstruction. She underwent combined percutaneous fluoroscopic insertion of guidewire and rendezvous insertion of fully covered self-expanding metallic stent (SEMS) and achieved palliation.

Case report

A 67-year-old woman, a known case of carcinoma colon (post-right hemicolectomy), presented with a history of jaundice for the past 6 months due to lymph node metastases at the porta hepatis. Percutaneous stenting (Luminexx Bard) of the right anterior, right posterior and left biliary system was done (as endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography failed) to palliate jaundice. No further treatment was opted because of her poor performance status. The patient was largely asymptomatic for 6 months after which she presented with acute intestinal obstruction (**Figure 1**) due to recurrence of tumour at the anastomotic site. After initial resuscitation, stenting was