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Case Report

Peritoneal Pseudocyst - A Complication of Lumbo Peritoneal Shunt Surgery

complications include shunt infection, subcutaneous collection of CSF, peritoneal pseudocyst, bowel perforation, intestinal volvulus, mesenteric pseudotumor, migration of the catheter into the pleural cavity and heart, and development of an incision hernia [2].

Case Description

A 5 year old girl, known case of congenital hydrocephalus, who underwent shunt surgery in the form of lumbo-peritoneal shunt, presented with headache, dizziness and fever for 1 week duration.

Plain abdominal CT scan showed collection of fluid around the peritoneal end of the shunt, a peritoneal pseudocyst measuring around 4.9x4.7 cm² in the coronal view and 5.7x4.5 cm² in horizontal view, both views measured at the image slices showing maximum diameters of the pseudocyst (Figure 1).

Introduction

Placement of a ventriculoperitoneal shunt is an established procedure for treatment of hydrocephalus, however, complications can occur. The most common causes of shunt malfunction are catheter obstruction and infection. The incidence of Ventriculoperitoneal shunt related abdominal complications has been reported to be from 5% to 47% [1]. The most common distal ventriculoperitoneal shunt

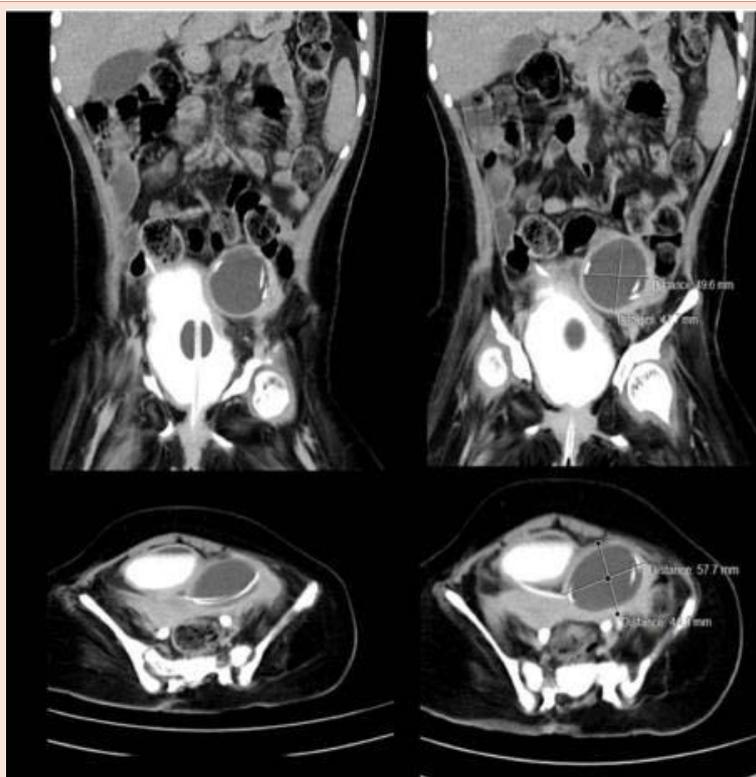


Figure 1



Shunt opening showed malfunction in the drainage and culture swab revealed growth of staphylococcus epidermitis organism. Plain brain CT scan showed evidence of hydrocephalus.

Patient was treated with immediate removal of shunt and parenteral antibiotics until the infection is cleared, followed by reinsertion of the shunt on the opposite side from the previous one due to adhesions formed at the previous site.

Shunt placement to heart was not considered because the patient had operated congenital heart problems. Repeat CT on follow-up in Neurosurgical OPD, showed resolving of the old pseudocyst collection and the distal end of the repeat shunt was in proper position without development of any more pseudocysts or abscess collections, with significant improvement of the patient's clinical condition.

Conclusion

Peritoneal CSF pseudocysts are a rare but important complication of VP shunt surgery, with a reported incidence ranges from less than

1.0% to 4.5%. Most of the reported cases are of pediatric age group or early adolescence [3].

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