

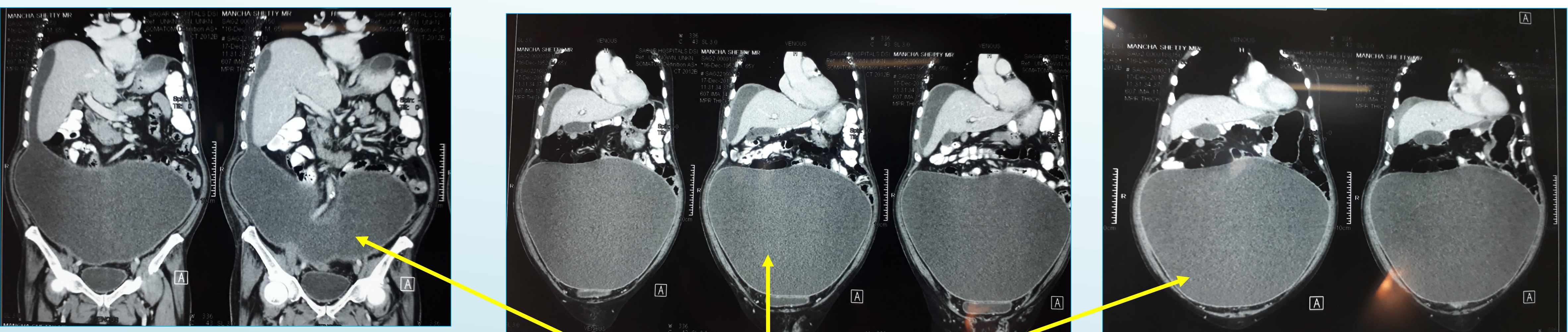
BILE ASCITES – CONSEQUENCE OF INTRAPERITONEAL BILE LEAK POST CHOLECYSTECTOMY

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Introduction

Free escape of bile into the peritoneal cavity in adults generally is considered to be an acute and serious situation with a high mortality rate. In a review of more than 7,000 cases of perforation of the gallbladder, collected from six authors, Eliason and McLaughlin reported a mortality rate in adults of 10% to 85%.



Ascites

Procedure

Laparoscopic assisted bile ascitic drainage and lavage

Discussion

(1) Prominent abdominal pain and tenderness developed in only 21% of patients with abdominal bile collections; (2) the symptoms caused by bile collections were often subtle and their significance was overlooked, which resulted in a delay in diagnosis; (3) the early clinical findings could not distinguish patients who did become critically ill from those who did not; and (4) seriously ill patients more often had delayed drainage and infected bile. Still, failure to drain a bile collection within just 5 days resulted in serious illness in a few patients

Conclusion

Surgeons must watch for the clinical manifestations of bile ascites after laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This diagnosis should be suspected whenever persistent bloating and anorexia last for more than a few days; failure to recover as smoothly as expected is the most common early symptom of bile ascites. If bile collections were promptly diagnosed and drained, the rate of serious illness resulting from this complication would decline.

Case-report

A 68 years old gentleman presented with massive ascites noted since 3 months. He had history of undergoing laparoscopic Cholecystectomy 3 months back, followed which he started to develop fullness of abdomen and misdiagnosed to have ascites secondary to chronic liver disease. On evaluation CECT showed a large encysted collection tracking from perihepatic space to lower abdomen, post cholecystectomy status with normal biliary anatomy. Patient underwent Laparoscopic assisted drainage of 8.5 litres of bile with drain placement. Post-operative recovery was uneventful. Patient resumed his normal routine activity post 2 weeks of surgery.



Ascites



Biliary Plaque (Lap View)



Biliary Plaque (Lap View)



Biliary Plaque



Drained Peritoneal Bile



References :

- 1) [Lee CM, Arch Surg.](#) 2000 May;135(5):538-42; discussion 542-4
- 2) Viste A, Horn A, Øvrebø K, Christensen B, Angelsen JH, et al. (2015) Bile duct injuries following laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Scand J Surg 104: 233-237