INTESTINAL PERFORATION IN A SEVERE COVID-19 PATIENT: A RARE COMPLICATION

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- SINCE THE EMERGENCE OF SARS – COV-2, SEVERAL ATYPICAL ABDOMINAL CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED. ALTHOUGH THE VIRUS PRESENTS PRIMARILY AS A LOWER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION, THERE ARE MULTIPLE GASTROINTESTINAL MANIFESTATIONS OF THE DISEASE. IN SOME CASES, THESE SYMPTOMS CAN BE THE INITIAL PRESENTATION OR EVEN THE ONLY MANIFESTATION OF COVID-1. AMONG THE MOST REPORTED INTESTINAL SYMPTOMS, WE FOUND DIARRHEA AND LOSS OF APPETITE AS THE MOST COMMON. OTHER SYMPTOMS ALREADY MENTIONED INCLUDE NAUSEA, VOMITING, ABDOMINAL PAIN AND INCREASED TRANSAMINASES. THE AUTHORS WILL PRESENT A CASE OF ACUTE VASCULAR ABDOMEN IN A PATIENT HOSPITALIZED AFTER A CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS OF COVID-19 BY RT-PCR. PATIENT AO, 48 YEARS OLD, MALE, OBESE AND HYPERTENSIVE, WAS ADMITTED WITH ACUTE, FEBRILE, TACHYCARDIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE, SATO2 75%, STARTING INTENSIVE SUPPORT.
- DEVELOPED NEPHROPATHY RELATED TO COVID 19, REQUIRING DIALYSIS. ON THE 7TH DAY OF HOSPITALIZATION, HE PRESENTED PNEUMOPERITONEUM ASSOCIATED WITH ABDOMINAL DISTENSION ON ROUTINE X-RAY.
- PATIENT SUBMITTED TO EXPLORATORY LAPAROTOMY, IDENTIFYING PERFORATION OF THE ASCENDING COLON OF ABOUT 1 CM WITH STOOL DISCHARGE. PERFORMED RIGHT COLECTOMY AND ENTERECTOMY OF THE TERMINAL ILEUM WITH ILEOSTOMY, PRESENTED GOOD EVOLUTION.
- SEVERAL MECHANISMS THAT JUSTIFY INTESTINAL INVOLVEMENT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED IN ADDITION TO INFECTION AND DIRECT DAMAGE TO THE MUCOSAL EPITHELIUM, SUCH AS HYPOTENSION AND VASCULITIS DUE TO THE STATE OF SYSTEMIC SHOCK, MICROBIOTA DISARRANGEMENT DUE TO THE BLOCKAGE OF AMINO ACID TRANSPORT MENTIONED ABOVE, OR A HYPERRESPONSIVENESS OF THE EXTENSIVE INTESTINAL LYMPHOID TISSUE TO THE DISEASE-RELATED CYTOKINE STORM). WE AGREE WITH (H.M.A. KAAFARANI ET AL 2020) THAT VIRAL ENTERONEUROPATHY AND SARS-COV-2 INDUCED SMALL VESSEL THROMBOSIS ARE TWO POSSIBLE HYPOTHESES THAT WARRANT FURTHER INVESTIGATION). THE LATTER GAINS SPACE WHEN WE EVALUATE THE ONLY OTHER PUBLICATION OF OUR KNOWLEDGE REGARDING ISCHEMIA WITH INTESTINAL PERFORATION (BIANCO ET AL 2020) WHOSE PATIENT, IN A SCENARIO VERY SIMILAR TO OURS, ALSO PRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN D-DIMER (30X) AND ISCHEMIA OF A SMALL SEGMENT OF THE SMALL INTESTINE.
- CASES LIKE THIS REINFORCE THE IMPORTANCE AND NEED FOR FURTHER STUDIES TO ASSESS THE REAL IMPACT OF VIRAL INFECTION ON GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM, SINCE MOST STUDIES STILL FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON THE RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE.

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