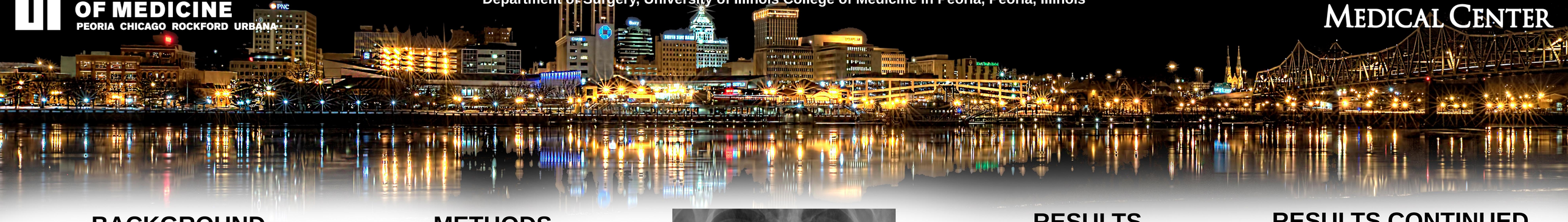
Cecal Perforation Within A Foramen of Winslow Hernia In A 29 Week Pregnant Patient: A Case Report

Jennifer Rehbein MD, and Chandler Wilfong MD
Department of Surgery, University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
PEORIA CHICAGO ROCKFORD URBANA

OSF SAINT FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER



BACKGROUND

- Borders of Foramen of Winslow
  - Caudate lobe of the liver
  - Inferior vena cava (IVC)
  - Duodenum
  - Hepatoduodenal ligament
- Connection between the intra-abdominal cavity and the lesser sac
- Site of potential internal hernia
  - Rare cause of internal hernia
  - 200 cases reported in literature

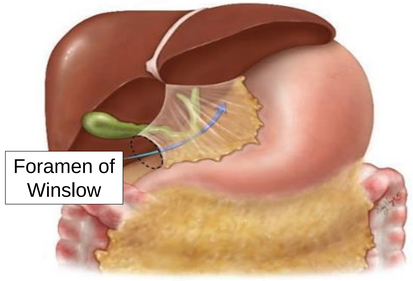


Figure 1.
Borders of Foramen of Winslow

METHODS

- 36 year old 29-week pregnant female presented to outside hospital (OSH) with acute onset epigastric abdominal pain
- No prenatal care leading up to admission
  - Appropriate fetal movement
- Hospitalized for nephrolithiasis at 28 weeks
  - Etiology of pain at time of transfer attributed to constipation secondary to narcotics
  - 5 days without bowel function
  - Transferred to our institution, accepted by obstetric team for urologic intervention
- Tachycardic with peritonitis on physical exam upon presentation to our institution
  - Surgical consultation requested by obstetric team
- Upright CXR with large volume pneumoperitoneum

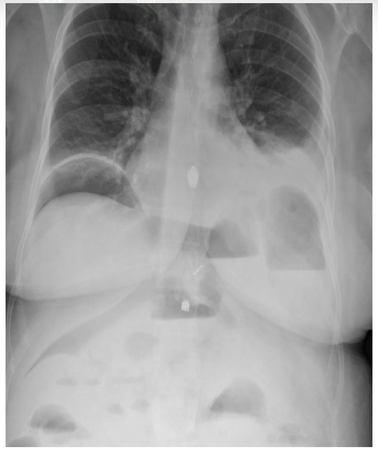


Figure 2.
Upright chest X-Ray. Large volume pneumoperitoneum visible below right hemi-diaphragm, and air fluid levels in the left upper quadrant

RESULTS

- Patient taken for exploratory laparotomy
  - Large volume purulent drainage
- Stool noted to be draining from focal perforation near the gastrohepatic ligament and infra-hepatic space
- Stomach, duodenum, lesser sac without pathology
- Terminal ileum, ileocecal valve and cecum were reduced from the Foramen of Winslow
  - Internal hernia causing perforation at cecum
  - No distal obstruction palpated
  - No additional pathology noted
- Creation of an end ileostomy with mucus fistula, closure of abdomen

RESULTS CONTINUED

- Fetal decelerations occurred in immediate post-operative period
  - Emergent delivery of healthy, although premature male infant

CONCLUSIONS

- Foramen of Winslow hernias are rare presentations of internal hernias
- We describe an even more rare case of a Foramen of Winslow hernia leading to a cecal perforation in a 29-week pregnant patient who presented with acute onset epigastric pain and diagnosis complicated by lack of cross-sectional imaging due to pregnancy