EPIGASTRIC HERNIA CONTAINING INCARCERATED GALLBLADDER

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Introduction

- Epigastric hernias represent 1.6%–3.6% of all abdominal hernias
- Commonly contain preperitoneal fat, occasionally omentum or small bowel
- Rarely, epigastric hernias may contain portions of other organs, such as colon or stomach

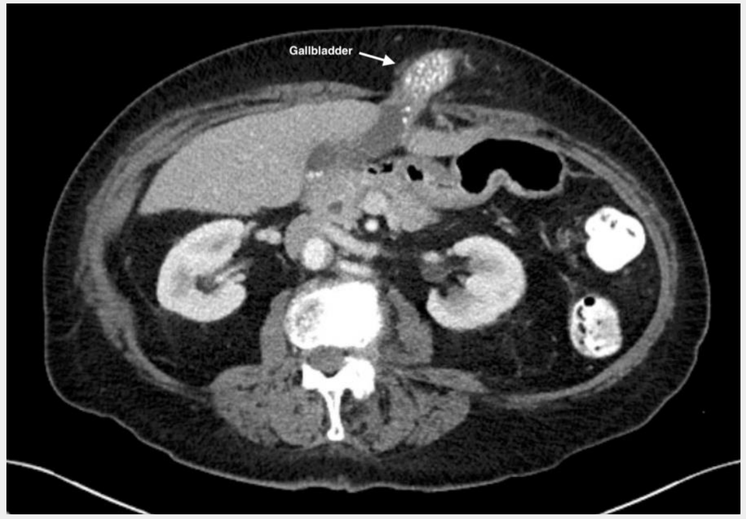


Figure 1: Preoperative CT Scan

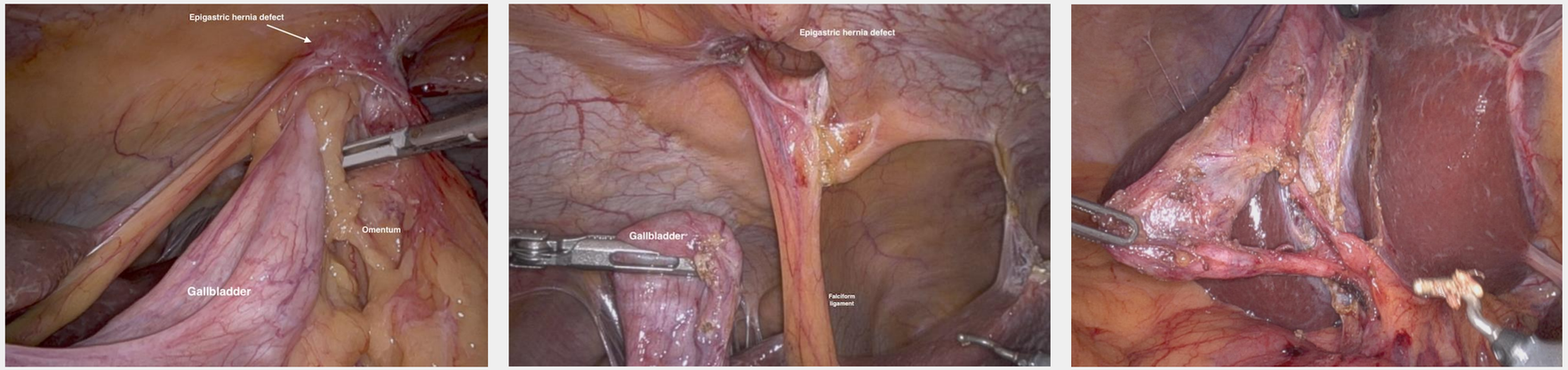


Figure 2: Intraoperative Images, Pre- (left) and Post- (middle) Gallbladder Reduction. Critical view of safety (right).

Case Presentation

- 81-year-old female presented to outpatient clinic with intermittent epigastric pain and an abdominal bulge
- ***CT***: 1.5cm epigastric hernia containing a large portion of the gallbladder with numerous stones **(Figure 1)**
- ***Surgery***: Elective robotic-assisted cholecystectomy and open primary suture repair of the epigastric hernia
  - The hernia sac was removed robotically **(Figure 2)**
  - The small defect was repaired primarily in an open fashion
- ***Pathology***: Revealed cholelithiasis

Discussion

- Gallbladder herniations are rare
- Most gallbladder-containing hernias occur at prior incision sites, usually in the right upper quadrant
  - Other described locations include parastomal, internally through the foramen of Winslow, or ventral/epigastric
- Associated risk factors include female sex, older age, prior abdominal surgery or hernias, and gallbladder carcinoma
- Avoid aggressive reduction attempts (risk of rupture)
- Use mesh cautiously (potentially contaminated field)