SMALL BOWEL DIVERTICULITIS PRESENTING WITH VOLVULUS AND MASSIVE RESECTION: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction

Small bowel diverticulosis is rare and often clinically silent but can cause catastrophic complications including perforation, bleeding, obstruction, and volvulus. Volvulus secondary to diverticulitis is exceptionally uncommon with limited reports. We present a case of extensive small bowel ischemia due to diverticulosis-associated volvulus requiring massive resection and bedside re-explorations.

Clinical Presentation

A 67-year-old male with atrial fibrillation, hypertension, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, and prior robotic inguinal hernia repair presented with acute abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting.

Key findings:

- WBC 54,000/µL
- Lactate 13.9 mmol/L

Exam: severe distention and pain out of proportion

CT abdomen/pelvis demonstrated dilated small bowel with free intraperitoneal fluid concerning for obstruction and ischemia.

PMH: afib,HTN,CLL, robotic inguinal hernia repair

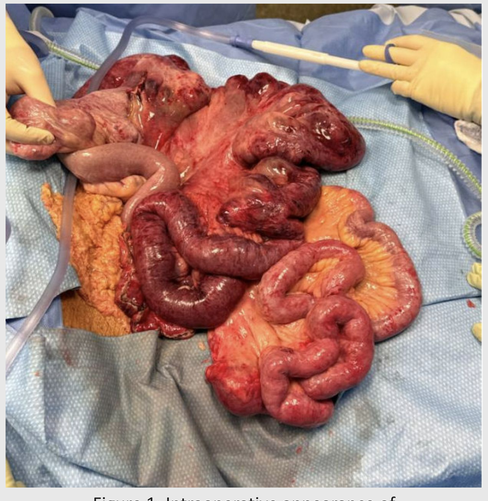


Figure 1: Intraoperative appearance of volvulized/ischemic small bowel with diverticular disease

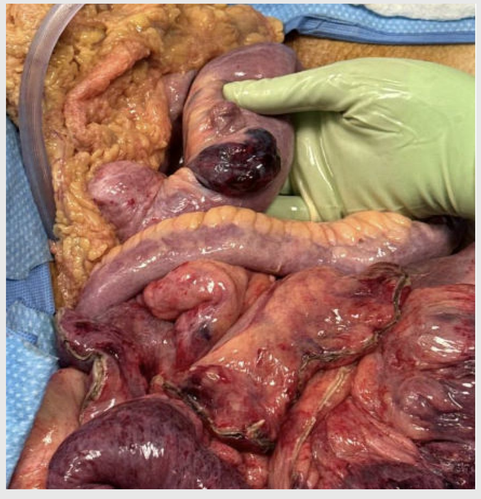


Figure 2: Ischemic small bowel with diverticular disease

Figure 3: CT A/P demonstrating dilated small bowel, air fluid level and free fluid

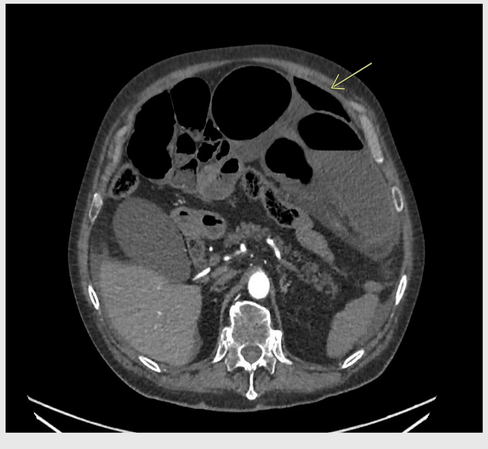
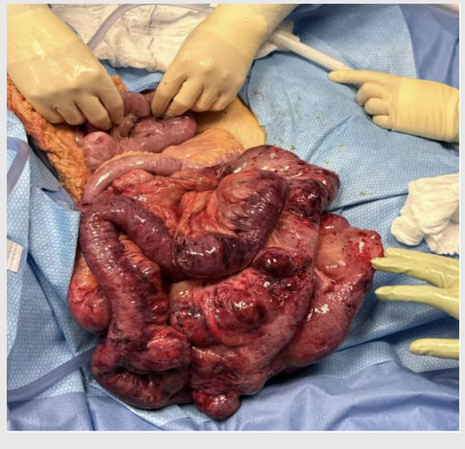


Figure 4: Intraoperative appearance of ischemic small bowel with diverticular disease



Operation

- Complete small bowel volvulus >360°
- Multiple segments of non-viable jejunum
- Resection of >7 feet of small bowel
- Abdomen left in discontinuity with temporary negative-pressure abdominal closure

Clinical Course

Persistent septic shock and escalating vasopressor necessitated bedside exploratory laparotomy

- 180 cm additional ischemic bowel
- Dusky residual bowel

Total 9 feet of small intestine removed

with remaining viable 200cm of small bowel

Discussion

Small bowel diverticulosis is a rare entity, with an estimated prevalence of 0.3–2.3%, most commonly involving the jejunum.

Volvulus associated with small bowel diverticulosis is exceptionally uncommon, with only limited cases reported in the literature.

Take Home

This case demonstrates a rare presentation of diverticulosis-associated small bowel volvulus resulting in extensive bowel ischemia and massive resection, highlighting the catastrophic potential of this disease process.