

# Hepatogastric Fistula Secondary to Liver abscess: A Case Report

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## Introduction

- Hepatogastric fistula (HGF) is a rare complication of ruptured liver abscesses, with only a small number of cases described in the literature.
- We present the case of a 72-year-old female who developed a HGF following a liver abscess that was successfully treated with surgical management.



## Case

- Patient presented to outside hospital with abdominal pain. She was found to have a large heterogeneous cystic mass in the left liver lobe projecting towards the stomach.
- 3 weeks later, she presented to our center, when repeat CT showed a 10.3 x 13.8 x 11cm cystic lesion within the liver, likely an abscess. She was started on IV antibiotics and underwent percutaneous drainage of liver abscess.
- 1 week later, gastric contents were noted in the drain. Repeat CT confirmed position within the collection with oral contrast noted in the drain confirming a fistulous communication.
- The patient was discharged with the drain and underwent surgery 3 weeks later for exploratory laparotomy and takedown of the HGF.
- During the procedure, a 1cm defect was detected in the lesser curvature of the stomach confirming a HGF that was repaired via a modified Graham patch.

## Discussion

- HGF is rare complication of percutaneous drainage of liver abscesses, radiofrequency liver ablation or transarterial embolization for hepatocellular carcinoma.
- Patients with large lesions near adjacent GI structures are at higher risk.
- Management varies depending on the etiology and symptoms. When conservative measures fail, surgical intervention may be warranted.

## Conclusion

This case highlights the importance of recognizing rare complications of liver abscesses, tailoring management to patients' presentations, and utilizing staged approaches when indicated. Elderly patients with comorbidities could still achieve favorable outcomes when treatment is individualized.