

## Subphrenic Abscess as a Rare Complication of Acute Appendicitis

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### Clinical Image

Subphrenic abscess is an uncommon complication of acute appendicitis since the advent of surgical treatment [1,2]. We report a case of a 47-year-old female, without any significant medical history, who had been diagnosed with acute appendicitis but refused surgical treatment. Three weeks later, she went to the Emergency Room with fever, abdominal pain and respiratory distress. Blood analysis revealed hemoglobin of 10.0g/dL, 27890 leukocytes, 652000 platelets, C-reactive protein of 92mg/L, total bilirubin of 1mg/dL, alanine and aspartate aminotransferase were 145 UI/L and 63 UI/L, respectively, alkaline phosphatase of 120 UI/L, without elevation of amylase or lipase. Abdominal Computed Tomography scan showed a subphrenic collection with air-fluid level inside (143 mm in longest diameter) and in cecum posterior topography (33 x 25 mm in largest diameter). She underwent thoracic drainage and initiated empiric antibiotic therapy with piperacillin/tazobactam and metronidazole. Exploratory laparotomy confirmed the subphrenic abscess with diaphragmatic fistulization. She died, seven days later, in the intensive care unit.



Figure 1

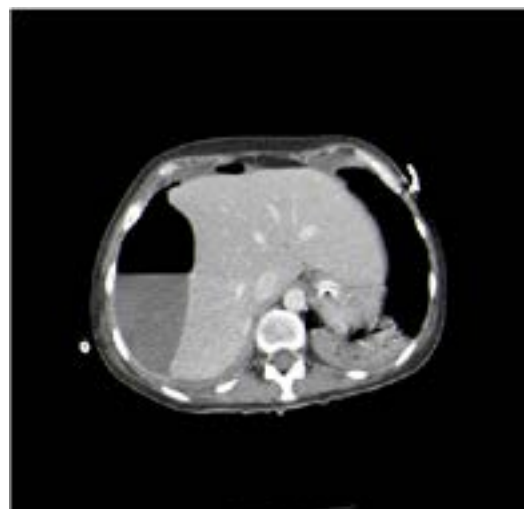
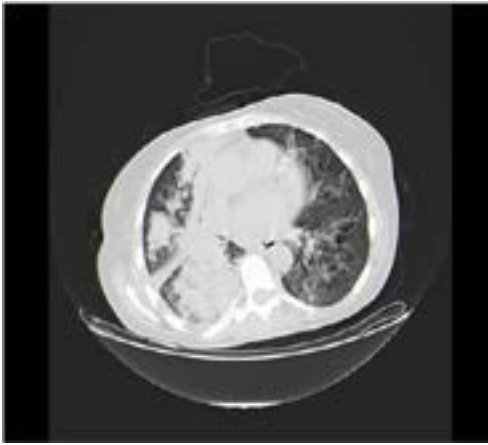


Figure 2

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**Figure 3**

## References

1. Bull. de la Soc. Anatomique. 1862.
2. Eisendrath DN. Subphrenic abscess as a complication of appendicitis. Journal of the American Medical Association. 1908; L(10): 751. doi:10.1001/jama.1908.25310360013001.