Gallstone Abscess due to Spilled Gallstones after Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

Sir,

Laparoscopic surgery has gained worldwide acceptance as gold standard treatment for symptomatic choledolithiasis. Although overall rate of complication is lower for laparoscopic cholecystectomy as compared to open cholecystectomy; the incidence of intraoperative gall bladder perforation is high, occurring in 15-33% of cases.\(^1,2\) Amongst gallbladder perforated cases, spillage of gall stones occurs in 16-66% of the cases.\(^2\) Retained intraperitoneal stones often appear to be clinically silent; but in rare cases, postoperative residual gallstones can contribute to abscess formation.\(^3\)

A 60-year lady presented to Outdoor Surgical Department with 4-week history of pain in right hypochondrium, low grade fever, and loss of appetite. She had undergone laparoscopic cholecystectomy seven months back, which was uneventful, but no intraoperative notes were available. On examination, she was running temperature of 99°F. She had tachycardia and was tender in right hypochondrium. Her ultrasound and CT scan abdomen revealed mass in right subphrenic space with an element of necrosis. This mass was having pressure effects over right lobe of liver. Based on these findings, a provisional diagnosis of right subphrenic abscess was made. Patient was operated via right subcostal incision. Loculated mass with necrotic material was present in the right subphrenic space (Figure 1).

To add to surprise, a stone measuring 2x3 cm was found in the centre of loculated mass (Figure 2), which was probably slipped during previous cholecystectomy and acted as a nidus for subphrenic abscess. After drainage of the area, peritoneal toilet was done and abdomen was closed with placement of drains. Postoperatively, patient showed uneventful recovery and was discharged on 5th postoperative day with resolution of symptoms.

Cholecystectomy in order to avoid such a rare but significant complication.

REFERENCES


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