



Recurrent Spontaneous Colonic Perforation in a 10- years-old Child

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To the Editor: A 10- y- old infant with no medical history was operated for acute appendicitis. The surgical observation found a gangrened appendix and an appendectomy was performed. Ten days post-operatively, the patient was readmitted for acute peritonitis. A CT-scan showed an abscess adjacent to the sigmoid colon measuring 54 × 39 mm. Paraoperatively, a sigmoid perforation was found on the anti mesenteric edge. A colonic resection was performed removing the perforation with an end- to- end anastomosis. No lesion that may explain the cause of perforation was found. Thirteen days after the second intervention, the patient was readmitted with symptoms of acute small intestinal obstruction. A CT-scan revealed small intestinal occlusion caused by an adhesion. The surgical observation found an adhesion causing small intestine obstruction and a perforation situated in the middle of the transverse colon on its anti mesenteric edge. The adhesion was dissected and the perforation was removed with an intestinal resection and an end –to- end anastomosis was performed. The histological study of the specimen showed inflammatory phenomena with colonic subserosal necroses and suppurating peritonitis lesions and thrombosed with fibrosis capillaries. The post surgical follow -up was without any complications. The occurrence of spontaneous perforation of colon in older children is extremely rare. The causes of colonic perforation are not clearly established and can be related to many conditions such as infectious diseases, genetic disorders, and vascular conditions. During neonatal period, colonic perforation may be caused by necrotising enterocolitis, Hirschsprung's disease, mechanical obstructions (anorectal malformation,

colonic atresia), small left colon syndrome, or rarely, cystic fibrosis [1]. However in older children this pathology has not been extensively studied, and the pathogenesis of this disease has not yet been elucidated. There are several conditions that may cause colonic perforation (CP). It can be related to a genetic disorder such as Ehlers Danlos Syndrome [2]. Moreover, infectious diseases can cause CP such as Typhoid fever. Another cause is idiopathic colonic perforation. It is sporadic and could occur at any age [3, 4]. The treatment of colonic perforation is essentially surgical and the prognosis depends essentially on the time to diagnosis [5].

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