61 yo female with abdominal pain. Patient is postoperative with recent laparoscopic appendectomy now with pain and distention. History of Factor V Leiden mutation

Fiona Doolan, Trinity College Dublin School of Medicine
Jen Padwal, MD Stanford University
Lindsey M. Negrete, MD Stanford University
Patient Presentation

Presents to outpatient surgeon 20 days after laparoscopic appendectomy. Final pathology showed benign perforated appendicitis.

She feels overall well. Eating okay, bowel movements x1-2 daily and passing some gas. She does report feeling heavy and unpleasant after ingesting liquids with associated mild distension and fullness that resolves on its own. No fever, chills, nausea, vomiting or urinary symptoms.

CBC and other labs WNL
What Imaging Should We Order?
Select the applicable ACR Appropriateness Criteria

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<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>Relative Radiation Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>CTA abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast</td>
<td>Usually Appropriate</td>
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<td><strong>CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast</strong></td>
<td>May Be Appropriate</td>
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<td>Arteriography abdomen</td>
<td>May Be Appropriate (Disagreement)</td>
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<td>MRA abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast</td>
<td>May Be Appropriate (Disagreement)</td>
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<td>Radiography abdomen</td>
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<td>US duplex Doppler abdomen</td>
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<td>CT abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast</td>
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This imaging modality was ordered by the ER physician
Findings (unlabeled)
Findings: (labeled)
Filling defect within the portal vein

Filling defect within the portal splenic confluence

Filling defect within the SMV
Filling defect within the portal vein
Filling defect within the portal splenic confluence
Filling defect within the SMV
Final Dx:

Extensive mesenteric thrombosis of the main portal vein, portal splenic confluence and superior mesenteric vein
Case Discussion (1-3 slides)

- Portomesenteric venous thrombosis accounts for up to 15% of all mesenteric ischemic events, and is particularly prevalent in patients post-laparoscopy, where it has been postulated that procedural insufflation leads to venous stasis.

- Presenting symptoms of PVT are non-specific, including nausea, cramping and pain out of proportion to exam. Peritoneal signs are often absent.

- CT with contrast is >90% sensitive in the detection of PVT and potentiates prompt diagnosis and treatment.

- Delay in diagnosis can result in bowel necrosis and in rare cases, death.

- Therapy is prompt anticoagulation with heparin, followed by long term anticoagulation with factor Xa inhibitors or Warfarin, with successful recanalization demonstrated in up to 90% of nonsurgical patients who develop PVT.

- For acute cases, management includes IV fluids, pain control and bowel rest, and broad spectrum antibiotics when septic thrombophlebitis is suspected. Escalation to laparotomy may be necessary.

- Outcomes are better when there is early identification.

