AMSER Case of the Month: July 2019

25 year-old male with nausea, vomiting and back pain

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Patient Presentation

- **CC/HPI**: 25 year old man presents to ED for 3 days of abdominal distension, nausea, vomiting, back pain
- **PMHx and SHx**: No pertinent history, no surgeries
- **Vital Signs**: BP 148/90 | HR 113 | RR 16 | T 98.2 | O2 100%
- **Physical Exam**: + epigastric tenderness, no rebound or guarding
- **Laboratory**:
  - WBC 17 (normal diff), Hb 13.6, Hct 41.1, PLT 451
  - AST 21, ALT 53, Alk phos 73, Tbili 0.7
  - Lipase 33 U/L (WNL)

What Imaging Should We Order?
Select the applicable ACR Appropriateness Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>Relative Radiation Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast</td>
<td>Usually Appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRI abdomen without and with IV contrast with MRCP</td>
<td>Usually Appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast</td>
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<td>US abdomen</td>
<td>May Be Appropriate</td>
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<td>US duplex Doppler abdomen</td>
<td>May Be Appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast</td>
<td>Usually Not Appropriate</td>
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These imaging modalities were ordered by the ER physician.
CT Abdomen with IV Contrast: Pancreas
Significant stranding in peripancreatic fat stranding.
Pancreas enhances normally.
No drainable fluid collection.

US RUQ: Gallbladder
Stones and sludge in the gallbladder. Negative Murphy’s sign.
Final Dx:

Acute interstitial edematous pancreatitis
Case Discussion

• Acute Pancreatitis (described by the Atlanta Classification System)
  • Two broad categories
    • Interstitial edematous pancreatitis (IEP)
      • More common than necrotizing pancreatitis
      • Pancreas will enhance homogeneously and appear engorged, typically with peripancreatic inflammation or fluid
    • Necrotizing Pancreatitis
      • Accounts for 5-10% of all cases of acute pancreatitis
      • Necrosis of pancreatic parenchyma and/or peripancreatic tissues, with hypoenhancement of the gland on CT

• Fluid collections around the pancreas
  • Acute peripancreatic fluid collection (APFC)
  • Pseudocyst
  • Acute necrotic collection
  • Walled off necrosis

• Complications
  • Infection
  • Vascular: splenic vein thrombosis, pseudoaneurysm, hemorrhage
Bonus: 4 months later

CC/HPI: Patient returns with 1 day of progressive abdominal pain radiating to back, nausea, vomiting

Vital Signs: BP 145/93 | HR 54 | RR 16 | T 96.6 | O2 100%

Physical Exam: + epigastric tenderness, no rebound or guarding

Laboratory:
- WBC 13.9, Hb 13.1, Hct 37.5, PLT 467
- AST 385, ALT 511, Alk phos 85, Tbili 6.2, Direct 4.0
- Lipase 1,376 U/L
Pseudocyst

Peripancreatic stranding

CT Abdomen with IV Contrast:
Worsening of pancreatic enlargement and increasing peripancreatic phlegmon involving left pararenal fascia.

5.8 cm peripancreatic fluid collection which does not demonstrate peripheral enhancement, likely pseudocyst.
Hospital Day 2

Patient was admitted for acute interstitial edematous pancreatitis with pseudocyst. On second day of admission, developed fever, tachycardia and new O2 requirement. CT Abd/Pelvis ordered.

Do you see any changes?
Findings (labeled)

Patchy hypoenhancement of the pancreatic parenchyma, consistent with necrosis.

Coronal section of focal splenic vein thrombosis.

Pleural effusion.
References:

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