

Mesenteric panniculitis mimicking acute appendicitis: a case report

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ABSTRACT: A 24-year-old woman, with a medical history of atrial fibrillation, complained about acute pain in the right iliac fossa. Physical examination showed a tenderness in the right iliac fossa. Biological exams demonstrated a hyperleukocytosis with an elevated CRP. Computed tomography revealed a thickening of the mesentery with multiple lymph nodes.

Based on this presented case which diagnosis would you have taken?

1. Acute appendicitis
2. Crohn's disease
3. Lymphoma
4. Mesenteric panniculitis

Answer: Mesenteric panniculitis.

Mesenteric panniculitis is a rare auto-immune disease with undetermined etiology [1]. Its manifestations are abdominal pain, fever, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting hence mimicking appendicitis [1]. Evolution under surveillance and the absence of signs in favor of its differential diagnosis allows medical treatment if needed [1].

KEY WORDS: Mesenteric panniculitis; CT; acute appendicitis

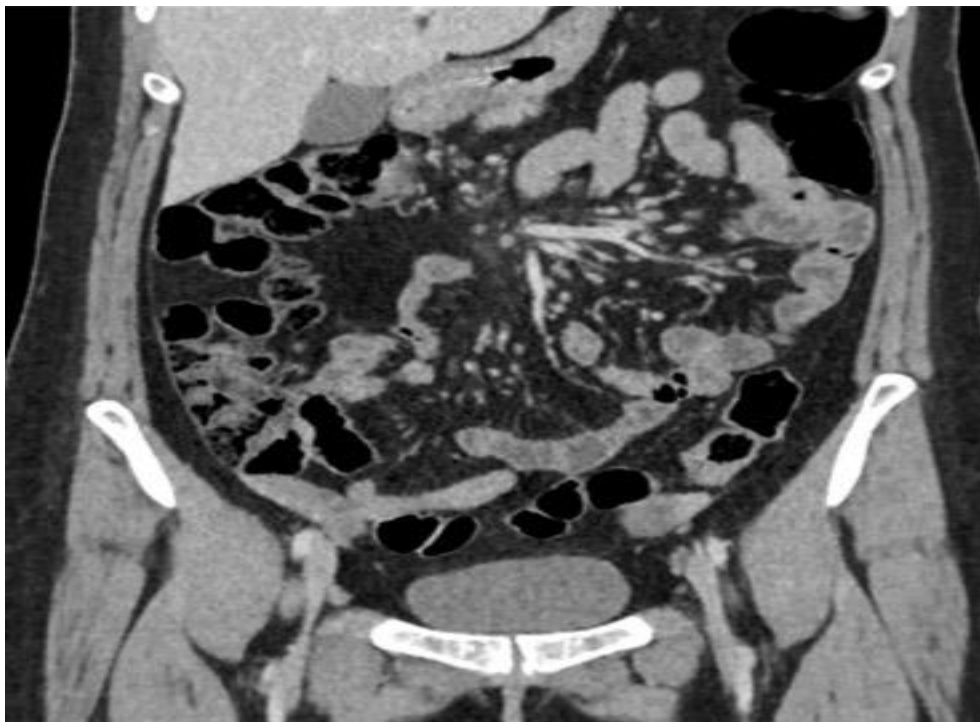


Figure. Computed tomography showing at stranding in the root of the mesenteric vessels with no signs of malignancy nor appendicitis.

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REFERENCES

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