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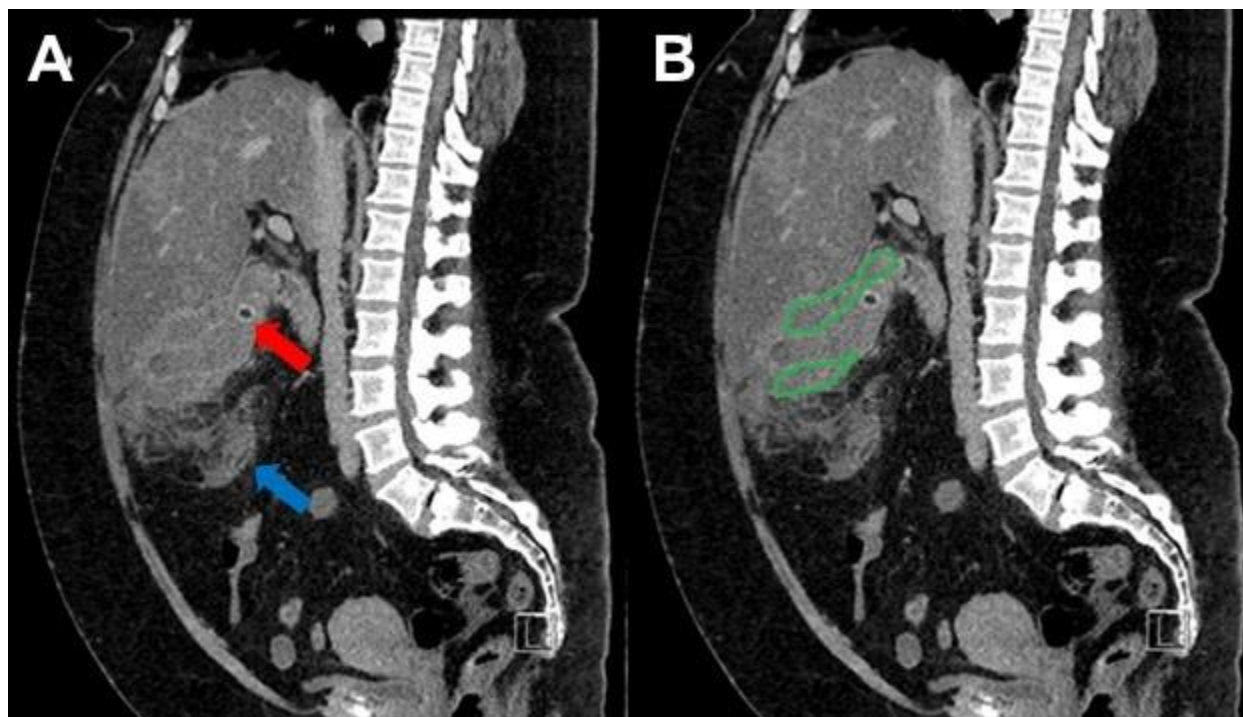


Figure 1. A sagittal CT of the abdomen and pelvis without intravenous contrast demonstrates a low-density stone in the neck of the gallbladder (red arrow) along with large amount of complex fluid adjacent to the

gallbladder (outlined in green) consistent with a large pericholecystic abscess. A large amount of fat-stranding in the adjacent mesenteric fat is also noted (blue arrow).

**Key Words:** abdominal CT scan, abscess, acalculous cholecystitis, acute cholecystitis, cholecystitis, cholelithiasis, gangrenous cholecystitis, perforated cholecystitis, gallbladder, acute cholecystitis,

**Clinical Scenario:** A 47-year-old lady with a past medical history of hypertension, DVT on Xarelto, and methamphetamine use presented with a 3-day history of progressive right upper quadrant pain. Physical examination demonstrated marked right upper quadrant tenderness with palpation and significant rebound tenderness. A CT of the abdomen and pelvis without intravenous contrast demonstrated findings consistent with acute calculus cholecystitis with evidence of perforation and a pericholecystic abscess. The patient was taken emergently to the operating room where she underwent an open cholecystectomy which demonstrated perforated gangrenous cholecystitis with a large abscess in the gallbladder fossa. She was admitted to the ICU post-operatively due to septic shock and did well with fluid resuscitation and antibiotic administration.

**Discussion:** Acute cholecystitis is the most common acute complication of cholelithiasis and accounts for 3-9% of hospital admissions for acute abdominal pain. Eight to 95% of cases of acute cholecystitis are the result of a stone obstructing the cystic duct or gallbladder neck. Acute acalculous cholecystitis accounts for the remaining 5-20% of cases of cholecystitis. Ultrasound is the preferred initial examination for patients suspected of having cholecystitis. Gangrenous cholecystitis is the most common complication of acute cholecystitis and often necessitates emergent surgery. Perforated cholecystitis is most commonly seen in

association with gangrenous cholecystitis. Perforation most commonly occurs at the gallbladder fundus where blood flow to the gallbladder is most distal.

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**Keywords:** Cholecystitis, Perforated cholecystitis, abscess

### *Reference*

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