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Image of the Month

Massive Colonic Ischemia Secondary to Sigmoid Volvulus[☆]



Isquemia masiva de colon secundaria a vólvulo de sigma

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

The patient is a 73-year-old woman who came to our Emergency Department in a situation of hemodynamic instability with abdominal pain during the previous 48 h, fecal vomiting, abdominal distension and tympanism. Abdominal-pelvic computed tomography scan revealed a sigmoid volvulus (Fig. 1, topogram) and generalized colonic pneumatosis of the mesenteric, hypogastric and portal vessels (Fig. 2, axial projection). After stabilization, the patient underwent emergency surgery, where we observed volvulus of the left colon as well as necrosis of the sigmoid, descending and transverse colon (Fig. 3), and approximately a 15 cm segment of the jejunum caused by compression of the mesentery. Due to the patient's situation of irreversible systemic sepsis, we decided not to perform intestinal resection. The patient died 8 h after surgery.

[☆] Please cite this article as: Orozco Gil N, Ponce Villar Ú, Lloret Martí MT, Caro Pérez F. Isquemia masiva de colon secundaria a vólvulo de sigma. Cir Esp. 2016;94:410.

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