Abdominal Shooting Star

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A 32-year-old man with repeated episodes of left inguinal hernia presented with a one-day history of pain in the left inguinal region. On examination, the patient was free of abdominal tenderness, the left scrotum was swollen and tender and bowel peristalsis was absent. Computed tomography showed that the omentum had shot through the abdominal cavity into the left scrotum, literally like a shooting star, and was accompanied by surrounding fluid (Picture). A diagnosis of left inguinal hernia secondary to omental incarceration was established. Hernioplasty was performed, and the patient showed a good postoperative course.

Omental incarceration is a rare entity, found in only 1% of patients with a hydrocele or inguinal hernia (1). However, this pathology can be associated with omental necrosis or secondary testicular torsion or necrosis; therefore, a surgical approach is necessary (2). In addition to the colon or intestine, physicians need to keep in mind that the omentum can also be contained in hernial sacs.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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References