Urinary Retention due to Constipation

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A 75-year-old man was admitted to our hospital due to thrombocytopenia. He was diagnosed with lupus erythematosus according to the following manifestations: thrombocytopenia, interstitial pneumonia, positive antinuclear antibody, positive anti-double-stranded DNA antibody, positive anti-cardiolipin antibody and decreased complement levels. Prednisone was administered. Thrombocytopenia did not improve; therefore, intravenous cyclophosphamide was added. On the following day, he developed urinary retention. Computed tomography showed a distended bladder (Picture A, asterisk) and a distended rectum due to massive stools (Picture B, arrow). He has been constipated for 9 days at that time. After extracting the hard stools digitally, his urination recovered to normal. A urinalysis showed no signs of hemorrhagic cystitis. The most common cause of acute urinary retention in men is benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) (1). A urological examination showed no BPH in this case. If there are no apparent causes of urinary retention, then constipation should be considered in the differential diagnosis.

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

Reference


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