

Laparoscopic Treatment of a Traumatic Diaphragmatic Hernia of the Gallbladder : Report of a Case

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Abstract : The patient was a 78-year-old female who had been suffering from a femoral bone fracture in a traffic accident for which she had received treatment 15 years earlier. She was diagnosed to have diabetes mellitus approximately 3 years previously, and had been regularly treated with oral medication and additional clinical examinations. In March 2002, a chest X-ray exam found the abnormal shadow in her right lower lung. Based on the findings of further examinations, her gall bladder came out into the thoracic cavity and thus she was diagnosed to have a diaphragmatic hernia and gallbladder incarceration. We performed laparoscopic surgery due to the possible dangers associated with cholecystitis, cholangitis and a perforation of the gall bladder. Under a laparoscopic view, we found a 3cm hernia orifice across the right diaphragm, along with a part of the liver and gall bladder suffering an incarceration.

The adhesion of the incarceration parts was not serious; we could restore the abdominal cavity easily. The orifice of the diaphragm was approximated by tying an extra corporeal knot. In addition, because of a defect consisting of an obvious hernia sac, we made a diagnosis of a traumatic hernia. The patient recovered uneventfully after the operation. She began a normal oral intake the next day, and the thoracic drain was removed on the 3rd day

Key words : diaphragmatic hernia, trauma, gallbladder, laparoscopic surgery