

A Case of Obturator Hernia Presenting with Gait Disturbance

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Abstract : A 78-year-old woman presented at our hospital complaining of right inguinal pain.

She had been vomiting frequently for three days before coming to our hospital and blood findings showed dehydration. A physical examination showed tenderness around the lower abdomen. A simple abdominal X-ray showed a dilated small intestinal shadow and niveau. A pelvic CT scan visualized a circular tumor between the right pectineal and external obturator muscles.

A diagnosis of ileus was due to an obturator hernia. An emergent operation was performed through the inguinal approach. At laparotomy, the small intestine was incarcerated into the right obturator showing a Richter type hernia. After the impacted intestine was released, mesh plug was placed into the right obturator extraperitoneally. An obturator hernia is common in elderly and lean woman. In instances in which ileus or femoral pain is confirmed, a CT scan of the pelvic region should be performed to make an accurate diagnosis. The inguinal approach is a less invasive and effective method for elderly patients for the treatment of an obturator hernia. The hernia hilus should be closed extraperitoneally using mesh in order to decrease the occurrence of a mesh infection.

Key words : Obturator hernia, Pelvic CT, Operation via extraperitoneum