

Port Site Sinus in a Post Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy Patient

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Abstract: *Laparoscopic port- site infections, though infrequent, undermine the advantages provided by minimally invasive surgeries. Persistent non - healing discharging sinuses, not responding to conventional antibiotic therapy, pose diagnostic and therapeutic challenges. Laparoscopic port - site infections range from 2% to 6%, and rapidly growing non - tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) as a cause of such infections have been established in several reports.*

Keywords: laparoscopic infections, port-site complications, non-tuberculous mycobacteria, minimally invasive surgery, antibiotic resistance

1. Case Description

- A 50 year old male patient presented to us in OPD with complaint of purulent discharge from the epigastric port site since 2 years. The patient underwent laparoscopic cholecystectomy in a government hospital 3 years ago.

2. Clinical Examination

- On local examination skin around the lesion was erythematous and local temperature raised around it.
- There was mild tenderness with minimal purulent discharge.

3. Investigations

- CBC – Increased WBC
- SINOGRAM: Around 7*5cm elongated contrast filled cavitary lesion seen in muscular plane of anterior abdominal wall.
- CEMRCP: Short length peripherally enhancing blind ended tract with oedematous infiltration of surrounding tissue in anterior abdominal wall beneath epigastric port.
- CBNAAT: Negative for M. tuberculosis

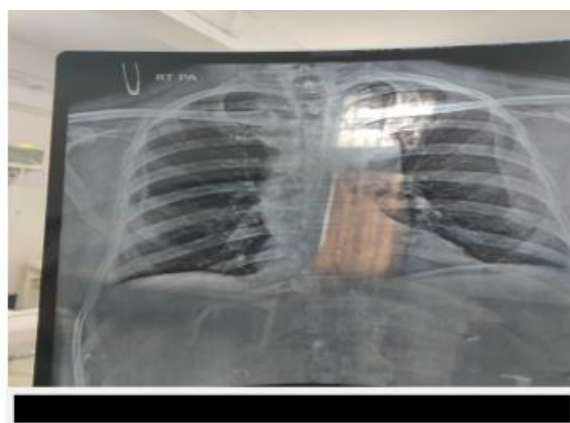
4. Treatment

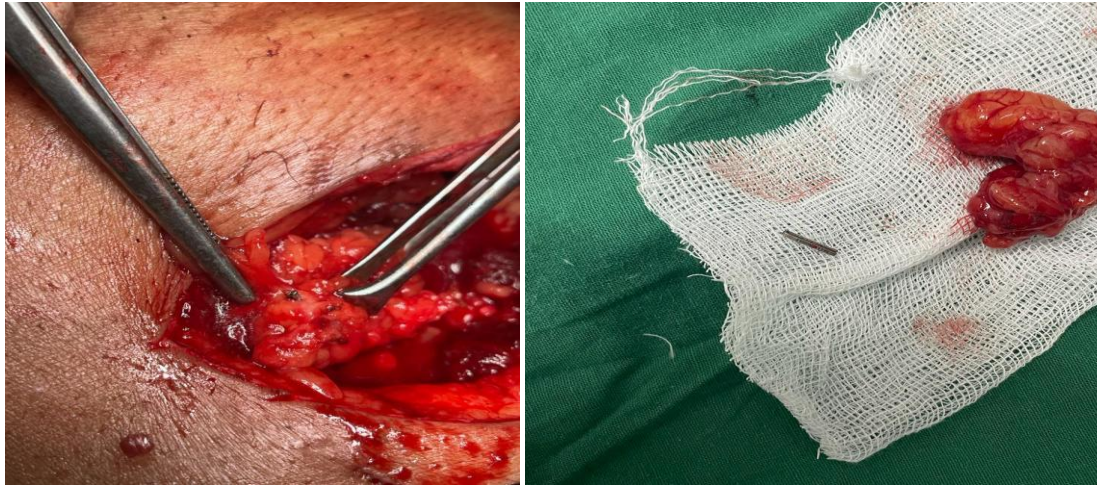
- Initial management with broad antibiotic coverage and anti inflammatory drugs for 4 weeks.
- Port site sinus exploration under GA after failure of medical management.
- A titanium clip was found on exploration of the tract which was probably iatrogenic.

5. Discussion

- With increasing use of laparoscopy for various surgical procedures, the occurrence of port site sinus is more often as a postoperative complication. In case of non - healing sinus following laparoscopic surgery, keeping this possibility in mind will lead to early diagnosis and treatment.
- Many of the cases reported to have port site sinus post surgery showed to have an infestation with M. tuberculosis leading to chronic sinus.
- Incomplete sterilization of laparoscopic instrument is also a leading cause for port site infection and sinus.

6. Images





7. Conclusion

- Port site sinus is a rare but significant postoperative complication following laparoscopic surgeries such as cholecystectomy.
- This case highlights the importance of maintaining a high index of suspicion for chronic infection, foreign body reaction, or mycobacterial infection in patients presenting with a non - healing discharging sinus.
- Despite initial negative findings for tuberculosis and failure of medical management, surgical exploration revealed a retained titanium clip, underlining the role of meticulous surgical exploration of a sinus.
- Timely recognition and appropriate intervention, both medical and surgical, are crucial in managing such complications effectively and preventing prolonged patient morbidity.

References

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