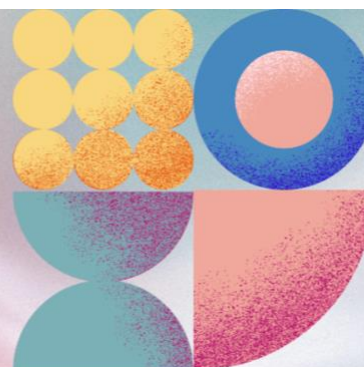


A Case of Pelvic Tuberculosis (TB): A Rare Differential for Acute Pelvic Pain in Australia

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BACKGROUND

Pelvic TB is a rare cause of acute pelvic pain in Australia, partly because the condition itself has low-grade symptoms and is usually insidious, and because the prevalence of TB in Australia is low. It is more prevalent in South-East Asian populations, like India where the prevalence is as high as 48.5% in patients with tubal factor-associated infertility.¹

AIMS

This case aims to highlight Pelvic TB as a rare cause of acute pelvic pain.

CASE

A 33-year-old P3 female was referred to ED by an external imaging site following an US that reported a large amount of pelvic fluid with debris, with concerns for an ectopic pregnancy. This was on a background of acute pelvic/abdominal pain for two days, her last menstrual period 6 weeks prior, and a reported positive home pregnancy test. She was tachycardic, and febrile with significant abdominal tenderness and guarding on presentation, so a decision was made for urgent diagnostic laparoscopy.

RESULTS

Formal BHCG result returned negative just prior to diagnostic laparoscopy whereby intraoperative findings were of turbid fluid, adhesions and inability to visualise pelvic organs secondary to the same. Sampling of peritoneal fluid was taken, and she was commenced on IV antibiotics for Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). She was eventually discharged with improvement in her pain and inflammatory markers. Her peritoneal fluid results subsequently returned positive for acid-fast-bacilli, confirming pelvic TB and she was readmitted shortly after under the Respiratory team, with a large right-sided pleural effusion secondary to TB. She was commenced on TB treatment and discharged following clinical improvement.

DISCUSSION

Pelvic TB is an important differential of PID to consider given the long-term sequelae of infertility and chronic pelvic pain.¹ A high level of suspicion needs to be held, particularly in patients who may fit the demographic.

Reference

1. Grace GA, Devaleenal DB, Natrajan M. Genital tuberculosis in females. Indian J Med Res [Internet]. 2017 April [cited 2024 February 18];145(4):425-436. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5663156/> DOI: 10.4103/ijmr.IJMR_1550_15.