Author's response to reviews

Title: Acute abdomen due to spontaneous splenic rupture in association with the first presentation of lung malignancy: a case report.

Authors:

Angelos Kyriacou (angelos5@doctors.org.uk)
Nolan Arulraj (nolanarulraj@hotmail.com)
Haren Varia (dr.varia@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Acute abdomen due to spontaneous splenic rupture in association with the first presentation of lung malignancy: a case report.

I have pleasure in submitting the above paper for your consideration.

Splenic rupture is a life-threatening cause of an acute abdomen. Spontaneous splenic rupture can present with non-specific features or simply with haemodynamic compromise and its management should include an attempt to identify an underlying cause. In this case study we report a patient that had spontaneous splenic rupture, causing an acute abdomen and shock, as the presenting feature of an underlying lung malignancy.

The primary learning point from this case report is that lung cancer can present with a spontaneous splenic rupture (and associated acute abdomen). This is an original observation and when a literature review was performed we were unable to identify any previous reports showing such an association. We therefore believe that this case report fulfils the criterion 2 (‘Unexpected or unusual presentation of a disease’) and criterion 5 (‘An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms’) as set out in the Instructions for JMCR authors in the section titled Scope of the Journal. This observation is of interest to acute and general physicians, oncologists, respiratory physicians but also radiologists and general internal surgeons.

Secondary learning point is that spontaneous (atraumatic) splenic rupture should be considered in the differential diagnosis of an acute abdomen and/or shock. Although, spontaneous splenic rupture is not an uncommon presentation in the surgical disciplines, it is rarely encountered by general or acute physicians. Given the life-threatening nature of this condition if left untreated, an increased awareness will promote prompt investigations and treatment.

I confirm that this article has been read and approved by all co-authors.

Yours sincerely,

Angelos Kyriacou

Nolan Arulraj

Horan Varia