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Clinical Image

Spontaneous Cholecysto-Cutaneous Fistula.

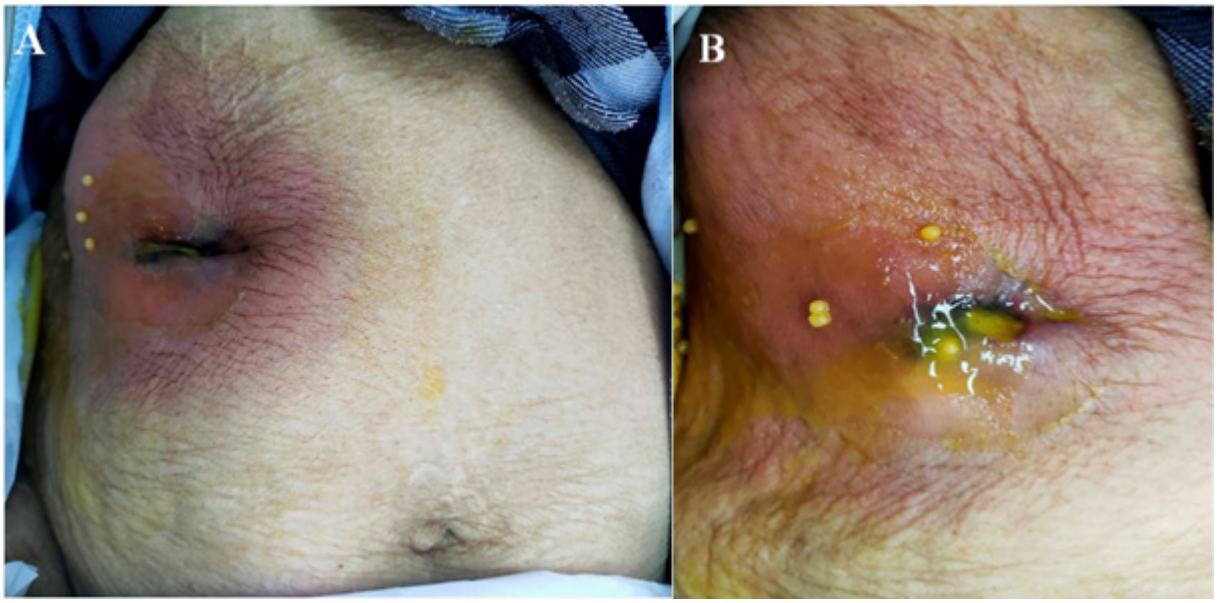
Meryam Mesbahi, Haithem Zaafouri, Nizar Khedhiri, Anis Ben Maamer.

Department of General Surgery, HABIB THAMEUR Hospital, Tunis TUNISIA Faculty of Medicine of Tunis. University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia.

CLINICAL IMAGE

An 87-year-old female patient presented to our surgical department with complaints of persistent right upper abdominal pain lasting for three months and an inflammatory subcostal mass on the right side. The patient had a history of acute pancreatitis four months prior. On abdominal examination, a 6 cm abscess was noted in the right subcostal area, accompanied by cellulitis and discharge of bile and gallstones (**Figure 1** Panel A and B). Laboratory results showed an elevated white blood cell count of 17000/mm3 and a CRP level of 170mg/dl, while other parameters were within normal limits.

Figure 1. Panel A and B Photograph of the abdomen of the patient, showing external opening of the fistula, erythema of the surrounding skin and discharge of bile and gallstones.



Due to local pain at the abscess site, abdominal ultrasound was not feasible. However, abdominal computed tomography revealed acute phlegmonous cholecystitis with a fistula extending to the skin, complicated by localized biliary peritonitis (**Figure 2** Panel C and D). A diagnosis of necrotizing fasciitis involving the anterior abdominal wall and a cholecystocutaneous fistula was established.

The patient underwent laparotomy, confirming the imaging findings. An infected bile and digestive fluid effusion was observed, along with a gangrenous gallbladder fistula releasing calculi. Additionally, an abscess formed by the gallbladder. The inflamed gallbladder was freed from adhesions to the abdominal wall abscess, and multiple gallstones were removed from the

***Corresponding Author:** **Dr. Haithem Zaafouri**, Department of General Surgery, HABIB THAMEUR Hospital, Tunis TUNISIA Faculty of Medicine of Tunis. University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia, **Email:** zaafouri.haithem@hotmail.fr
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subcutaneous tissue. Cholecystectomy was performed, followed by drainage of the subcutaneous abscess before abdominal closure. The postoperative course was uneventful.

Figure 2. Panel B and C, Contrast-enhanced axial CT showing the fundus of GB reaching up to the anterior abdominal wall. There is marked thickening of the GB wall.