A 50 year old male presented to hospital with a background of 6 weeks of fevers, diarrhoea, faecal incontinence, abdominal distension and significant loss of weight.

**Past History**
EtOH dependence, hypertension, homelessness

**Clinical Findings**
Mild right upper quadrant tenderness, ascites. Otherwise NAD

**Investigations**
CTAP - Acute appendicitis, multiple hepatic lesions consistent with abscesses, superior mesenteric vein and portal vein thromboses.
U/S - multiple hepatic abscesses, SMV and PV thromboses

**Portal Pyaemia with Liver and Cerebral Abscesses Associated with Portal Vein Thrombosis Secondary to Diverticulitis of the Appendix**

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PORTAL PYAEMIA WITH LIVER AND CEREBRAL ABSCESES ASSOCIATED WITH PORTAL VEIN THROMBOSIS SECONDARY TO DIVERTICULITIS OF THE APPENDIX

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MANAGEMENT

Despite IV antibiotics, the patient developed acute confusion, with a CT Brain revealing two cerebral abscesses. Multiple hepatic drainages were performed, culturing fusobacterium nucleate. Neurosurgical review recommended a conservative approach with cerebral abscesses, which diminished in size on serial imaging. A laparoscopic appendicectomy was performed, revealing over one litre of ascites and an acutely inflamed appendix. Histopathology reveal acute diverticulitis of the appendix.
DISCUSSION

Appendiceal diverticulii are uncommonly seen, with an incidence of 0.004 to 2.1% in appendectomy specimens. Acute diverticulitis of the appendix is up to four times as likely to perforate in comparison to simple appendicitis, increasing mortality up to 30-fold.

Portal pyaemia as a sequelae occurs secondary to spread of pyogenic organisms via the portal venous system. It is characterised by infection in areas supplied by the portal vein, with associated portal venous thrombosis. Gas within the portal system is also often present. Mortality rate of portal pyaemia is high, and early diagnosis and intervention is essential to avoid a poor prognosis.

Early source control is necessary, along with broad spectrum antibiotics until a pathogen is isolated.

References