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Visual Diagnosis: Unremitting Fever and Right-sided Abdominal Distension in a 7-week-old Girl

Jamie M. Pinto, Viola Cheung, Min Zheng, Saul A. Saad

Cover: The artwork on the cover of this month’s issue is by one of the members of our 2011 Cover Art Committee, 8-year-old Elly S. of Remington, MD. Elly’s pediatrician is Daniel Finekind, MD.

e76  Unremitting Fever and Right-sided Abdominal Distension in a 7-week-old Girl

Jamie M. Pinto, Viola Cheung, Min Zheng, Saul A. Saad

ABSTRACT: Unremitting fever and right-sided abdominal distension in a 7-week-old girl.

The infant was born at term via repeat caesarian delivery for cephalopelvic disproportion of unknown etiology. She had normal prenatal and perinatal history and no other medical problems until admission at 7 weeks of postnatal age. She was brought to the hospital with a 2-day history of fever up to 39°C, irritability, and vomiting of 8 episodes. On admission, she was afebrile, with no irritability, and normal appetite and vital signs. Abdominal examination revealed right-sided abdominal distension and tenderness. Laboratory tests revealed a white blood cell count of 25,000, with 83% neutrophils, urine cultures were negative, and all other tests yielded normal results. A diagnosis of postinfectious gastroenteritis was made, and she was discharged after 2 days. However, the next day, she vomited again, and a new finding of right-sided abdominal distension was noted. The neonatologist referred her to the pediatrician for an abdominal ultrasound, which showed a 5.7 cm complex cystic mass occupying the right abdomen. Magnetic resonance imaging revealed a solid complex mass with a thick-walled cystic mass and a hypodense cystic mass occupying the right abdomen. The infant's abdomen was explored, and a 5.7 cm solid mass was excised. Histologic review of the mass confirmed the diagnosis of fibrothelial nodule. The infant is doing well 3 months after the surgery.

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