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EDITOR'S QUIZ: GI SNAPSHOT .....

An unusual cause and treatment for ascites after liver transplantation

Robin Spiller, Editor

Clinical presentation

Six weeks after orthotopic liver transplantation due to acute Budd-Chiari syndrome, a 48 year old female was admitted for treatment of newly developed ascites and severe cachexia. To rule out recurrence of Budd-Chiari-syndrome, an abdominal ultrasound was performed, showing all hepatic veins with regular flow. The patient had lost 22 kg in weight since surgery (BMI 12.9 kg/m²). The patient was started on enteral and parenteral nutrition and diuretics. However, after a few days she suffered from tense ascites, refractory to increasing doses of diuretics. Serum albumin was 19.1 g/l and the serum-ascites-albumin gradient was >11 g/l. In addition, oesophageal variceal bleeding, requiring rubber band ligation, developed.

Question

What is your diagnosis and what tests would you order?

See page 884 for answer

This case is submitted by:

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