Congenital Morgagni's Hernia Presenting in Elderly Lady

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Abstract Morgagni's hernia is an uncommon type of congenital diaphragmatic hernia. Large numbers are symptomatic but some may present in middle aged. Our patient was asymptomatic till 63 years of age. X-ray chest, for her recent onset exertional dyspnea, was suspicious of right lung mass. CT thorax revealed right Morgagni's type of diaphragmatic hernia, a very rare diagnosis at that age.

Keywords Morgagni hernia

A sixty three year old lady presented with cough, difficulty in breathing and exertional chest pain for 2 months. X ray chest showed right lower zone homogenous opacity. CT thorax showed right Morgagni's type diaphragmatic hernia (Fig. 1). Exploration via upper midline abdominal approach showed transverse colon and omentum as content of sac (Fig. 2).

Majority of congenital diaphragmatic hernias occur through the left posterolateral foramen of Bochdalek [1]. Morgagni's hernia forms less than 5% of congenital diaphragmatic hernia, more common in males and on the right side (90%). Left side is affected in 8% and is bilateral in 2% [2]. Congenital heart disease is commonest anomaly seen in 80% children with Morgagni's hernia [3]. 26% incidence of associated bowel malrotation and 16 cases of down syndrome out of 46 children with Morgagni's hernia have been reported [3]. It is detected on a plain X-ray

Fig. 1 CT scan thorax showing right Morgagni's type diaphragmatic hernia

chest and is confirmed with ultrasound or CT scan thorax [4]. Transabdominal approach is advocated for following reasons: (i) bilateral Morgagni's hernia may be recognized and repaired; (ii) easier to reduce hernia

Fig. 2 Showing transverse colon and omentum entering hernial sac

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contents and inspect them; and (iii) it is easy to see and correct malrotation via transabdominal route [3].

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