Lethal Bubbles

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Abstract The present paper reports the case of a hyperacute gaseous gangrene diffuse to the whole body.

Keywords Gangrene · Gaseous · Lethal · Acute

A 76-year-old male presented with moderate abdominal pain with fever (39 °C). Patient's medical history revealed type II diabetes and chronic lymphatic leukaemia. Abdomen was mildly painful at deep palpation especially in the upper right quadrant. No other signs or symptoms were found at interview and physical examination. Blood exams showed white blood count 6.1, INR 1.6, platelet 95,000, glycaemia 202 mg/dl,

creatinine 1.5 mg/dl, bilirubin 3.4/2.4 mg/dl and PCR 55.6 mg/l. The patient was admitted for surgery with a diagnosis of cholangitis. A supportive fluid and empiric antibiotic therapy were started. Two hours after the patient presented, a red, hot and painful spot 3 cm in size appeared on the right leg enlarging rapidly. Computed tomography scan demonstrated an emphysematous gangrene extended to the left leg, along the back, up to the shoulders and diffused to the whole abdominal and thoracic cavities and organs (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7). The patient died immediately after computed tomography scan, 3 h after admission for a septic shock consequent to gas gangrene.

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Fig. 1 Gas gangrene of the inferior limb

Fig. 3 Gangrene of the pelvis

Fig. 2 Bubbles along the inferior limbs vessels

Fig. 4 Bubbles inside the abdomen

Fig. 5 Chest wall gangrene

Fig. 7 Bubbles at the apex of thorax

Fig. 6 Bubbles inside pericardium