

Diagnostic Challenge

A diabetic patient in septic shock

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CASE PRESENTATION

A 45-year-old man with schizophrenia and diabetes who had been taking oral hypoglycemics for 12 years

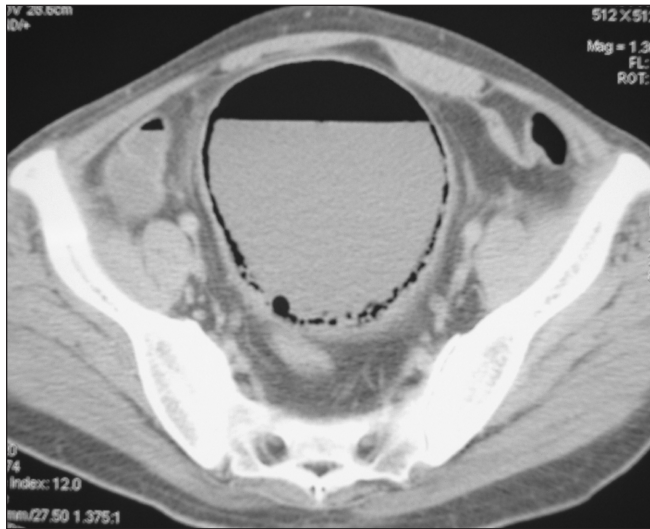


Fig. 1. Abdominal CT scan of a 45-year-old man with septic shock.

presented to the emergency department in septic shock. On examination, he was obtunded, with an oral temperature of 39.5°C, tachycardia and diffuse abdominal tenderness. Laboratory findings were remarkable for leukocytosis, with a white blood cell count of $23 \times 10^9/L$; a serum glucose level of 44 mmol/L; a serum creatinine level of 300 $\mu\text{mol/L}$; and both glucose and ketones in the urine. Bedside ultrasonography showed a slack gallbladder with a 5-mm thick laminated wall. On bladder catheterization, microscopic hematuria, pyuria and pneumaturia were noted. An abdominal CT scan was obtained (Fig. 1).

QUESTION

What is the most likely diagnosis?

- a) acalculous cholecystitis
- b) perinephric abscess
- c) emphysematous cystitis
- d) enterovesical fistula

For the answer to this challenge see page 540.

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