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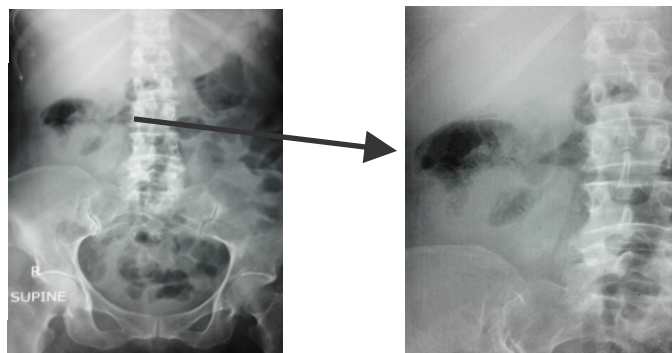
IMAGES IN SURGERY

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Case:

A 62 year old female with uncontrolled diabetes mellitus presented with a history of acute onset right sided flank pain, fever with chills and rigors for a duration of 1 day. On examination, she had significant right sided renal angle tenderness with gaseous distention of the abdomen. On investigation, she was found to have neutrophil leukocytosis (WBC: $22 \times 10^3/\text{mm}^3$ Neutrophils – 88%), and urinalysis revealed field full pus cells per high power field on microscopy. Ultrasonography revealed highly echogenic areas within the right kidney with a perinephric fluid collection in the right paracolic gutter. An X-ray KUB was performed and is shown below.

1. What is the radiological abnormality/clinical diagnosis shown?
2. What are the principles of management of a patient with this condition?



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 DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/sljs.v34i1.8227>



Answers on page 18

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Key Point:

- It should be emphasized that peri-ampullary or pancreatic neoplasm should be ruled out as an aetiological factor in those over 40 years presenting with acute pancreatitis for the first time, especially with no other recognizable causes.

Answers to images in surgery (from page 14)

1. Air within the renal parenchyma (clinical diagnosis: emphysematous pyelonephritis in a low lying right kidney).
2. Emphysematous pyelonephritis (EPN) is a severe form of necrotizing infection of the renal parenchyma causing gas formation within the collecting system, renal parenchyma, and/or the peri-renal tissues. It is commonly seen in women with poorly controlled diabetes mellitus. Management consists of conservative medical treatment and/or surgical management.

Medical management:

- Prompt fluid resuscitation to maintain adequate hydration.
- Empirical broad spectrum systemic antibiotics (intravenous ampicillin, gentamicin, carbapenem and metronidazole until culture sensitivities are available; vancomycin is used in patients with penicillin allergy).
- In obstructive uropathy relief of obstruction with percutaneous drainage or stent placement should be attempted. Any drainable infected collection should be drained percutaneously.
- Optimization of diabetic control.

Surgical management is indicated in the following situations:

- Failing medical management with clinical deterioration; nephrectomy is indicated.
- When percutaneous drainage of septic collections within the retroperitoneum is not available.
- When percutaneous drainage or internal stenting is not available for obstructive uropathy.

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