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Pyocystis causing Abdominal Wall Abscess and Necrotising Fasciitis: A Case Report

Pyocystis, also known as empyema cystitis or vesical empyema, is a rare but severe lower urinary tract infection seen in patients with a defunctioned bladder. It is caused by an accumulation of mucosal debris in the bladder with a secondary infection. We retrospectively reviewing case notes, operation notes, laboratory results, imaging results and clinical pictures. We report a case of a female patient with long-term bilateral nephrostomies who was initially thought to have cystitis and was treated with IV antibiotics. She deteriorated clinically and was found to have pyocystis causing a vesicocutaneous fistula and an anterior abdominal wall abscess. It rapidly progressed to necrotising fasciitis, necessitating emergency drainage and debridement. This yielded 400 ml of pus, and she was found to have a defect in the anterior rectus sheath leading straight to the bladder. For her re-look operation, further dead tissue was debrided. The abdominal catheter was removed, and the bladder defect was suture-repaired in two layers. A cystoscopy was also conducted which showed a slough in the posterior bladder wall. This was biopsied which showed features in keeping with severe acute inflammation or ulcer slough. Physicians should maintain a high index of suspicion for pyocystis in patients with anatomical or physiological defunctioned bladder, who have lower urinary tract infections. Urethral catheterisation is vital for the diagnosis and management of pyocystis to allow for the timely drainage of the intravesical abscess, and delays in treatment can cause significant disease progression and morbidity.

Keywords

pyocystis, UTI, defunctioned bladder, urology

Biography

Dr. Simone Sim is a Senior Clinical Fellow in Urology based in South London, having recently completed the Urology Track of Core Surgical Training in the North West of the United Kingdom. She is passionate about all aspects of urological practice, with particular interests spanning both in evidence-based clinical care and the advancement of medical education.