



IMAGES IN INTENSIVE MEDICINE

Ultrasound artifacts ‘shred sign’ and ‘pseudo-B lines’ in the liver: What is the culprit?



Artefactos de ultrasonido ‘shred sign’ y ‘pseudolíneas B’ en el hígado: ¿cuál es el culpable?

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During hospitalization, a 79-year-old male suddenly suffered abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and cold sweating after using the toilet on the 5th day after lumbar disc surgery. A point-of-care ultrasound displayed a ‘shred sign’ and ‘pseudo-B lines’ within the liver (Video 1 in Supplementary material), which was analogous to the echo profile of lung consolidation, indicating suspected intrahepatic gas. Subsequently, an abdominal computed tomographic

angiography confirmed extensive gas accumulation in the portal vein (Fig. 1a–c red arrow), multiple intestinal gases, retroperitoneal effusion, and normal mesenteric artery imaging. The patient received an emergency laparotomy, during which retroperitoneal effusion was drained. Afterward, circulatory shock was quickly corrected, and the portal vein gas accumulation disappeared 48 h later (Fig. 1d).

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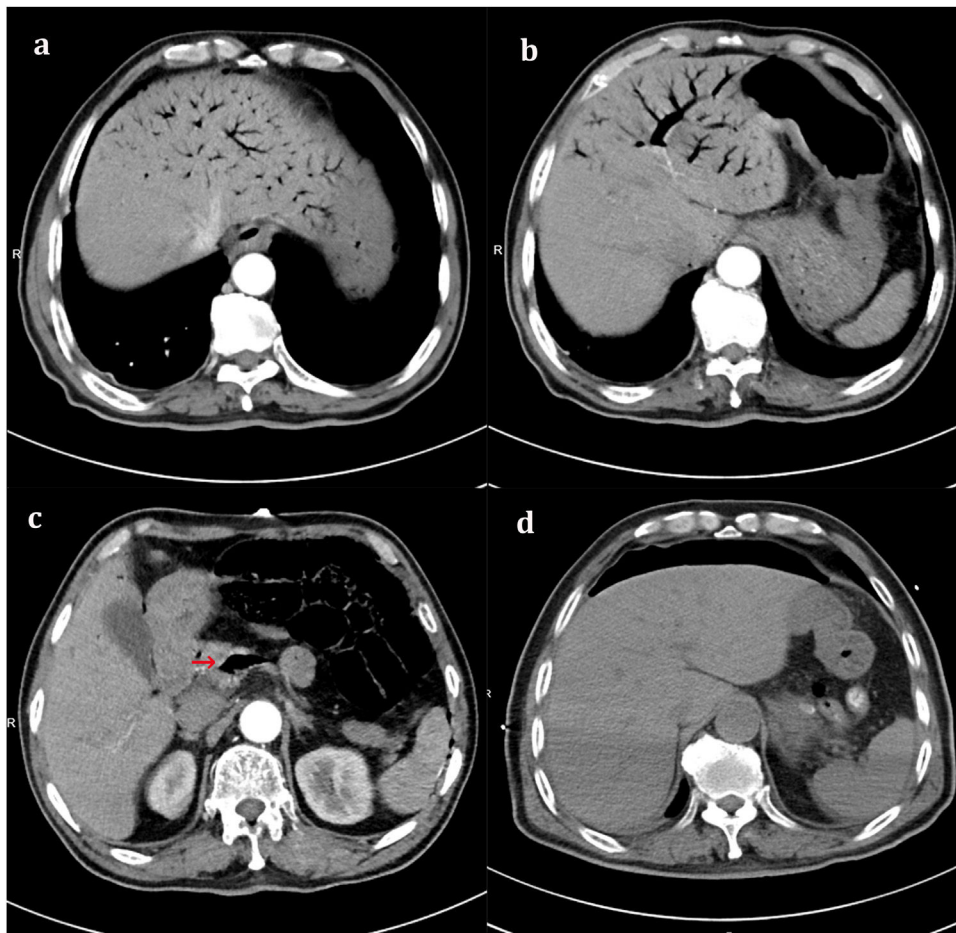


Figure 1 .

Author's contribution

Zhou X, Sha Y, and Chen B participated in the care of the patient, drafted the manuscript and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no potential conflict of interest.

Consent for publication

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

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