

NECROTISING FASCIITIS: THE RARE COMPLICATION IN A CHILD WITH PERFORATED APPENDICITIS

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Introduction: Necrotising fasciitis (NF) of extremities is a limb and life-threatening condition. We present a case report of a healthy girl who developed NF of right lower limb after delayed diagnosis of perforated appendicitis. The aim of this case report is to highlight on the possibility of developing such complication in acute abdomen of a previously healthy child.

Discussion: A 9-year-old girl who was previously well and healthy presented with 4 days history of worsening pain over right iliac fossa and right lower limb with 2 days history of fever. One week prior to onset of symptoms she sustained blunt trauma to her right flank. Her symptoms did not improve with analgesia. Subsequently she came to casualty with generalized tonic clonic seizure and septic shock. Upon initial assessment, there was no crepitus over her right lower limb, and plain radiography was clear. Urgent CT abdomen, pelvis and thigh done showed right intra-abdominal collection with extension to retroperitoneum space and features of extensive inflammation of right lower limb with necrotising fasciitis. She had undergone multiple wound debridement until wound clean, and finally managed to cover the wound with split skin grafting.

Conclusion: Necrotising fasciitis of lower limb is a life and limb threatening condition. It is a rare complication of acute abdomen and has higher occurrence in immunocompromised patients. There are only a few cases reported around the world with such complication and none of them involved healthy children. High index of suspicion is required for early detection so that early treatment can be initiated.