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Old Man with Groin Bruising

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A 67-year-old man presented to the emergency department with abdominal pain and groin bruising. He had no history of any disease or drug use. In his brief history he had a heavy cough five days ago and bruises appeared on the abdomen skin and groin in the last two days. Ecchymosis extends in the midline from umbilicus to the penis and scrotum in physical examination (Figure 1). Laboratory evaluation revealed normal hemoglobin level, platelet count, prothrombin time, and activated partial thromboplastin time. [West J Emerg Med. 2014;15(7):872–873.]

DIAGNOSIS

Abdominal rectus muscle hematoma was detected on abdomen computed tomography (Figure 2). We thought that rectus sheath hematoma appeared after heavy coughing. The patient was given a supportive treatment and after twenty days of follow up, the hematoma was disappeared without any complications.

Heavy cough can cause rectus sheath hematoma.¹ Rectus sheath hematoma should be considered in elderly patients on anticoagulant treatment with abdominal pain.² The frequent clinical findings are abdominal mass and pain.¹⁻³ The patients should be followed up for loss of blood and enlargement of the hematoma. Fatal complications are rarely seen and supportive treatment is adequate.



Figure 1. Appearance of the patient's abdomen and groin.



Figure 2. Abdomen computed tomography showing rectus sheath hematoma (arrows).

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