

Inguinal Herniation of Ureter - A Rare Cause of Hydroureteronephrosis – Clinical Image

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1. Clinical Image

Herniation of ureter into the inguinal canal is a rare radiological finding. We present a radiological Computed Tomographic (CT) image with contrast of a 69-year-old obese male who came to Urology OPD with complaints of mild, dull aching left loin pain. Clinical examination revealed a non-obstructing left recurrent irreducible inguinal hernia and a bed side Ultrasound revealed left hydroureteronephrosis. CT Urogram done showed herniation of left ureter into inguinal canal (Figure A). Patient was planned for left inguinal hernia repair. Few cases of herniation of native ureter into inguinal canal has been noted in literature and it can be of paraperitoneal type, which is more common and believed to be acquired or an extra peritoneal type, which is due to a congenital cause. In our case, the herniation of ureter is probably due to scarring due to prior inguinal surgery which pulled the ureter into the inguinal canal. The presence of inguinal hernia with hydroureteronephrosis on same side should arouse a suspicion of ureteral herniation. CT with contrast imaging is required for confirmation of diagnosis and a careful inguinal hernia repair is required for avoiding inadvertent ureteral injury and relieving the obstruction.

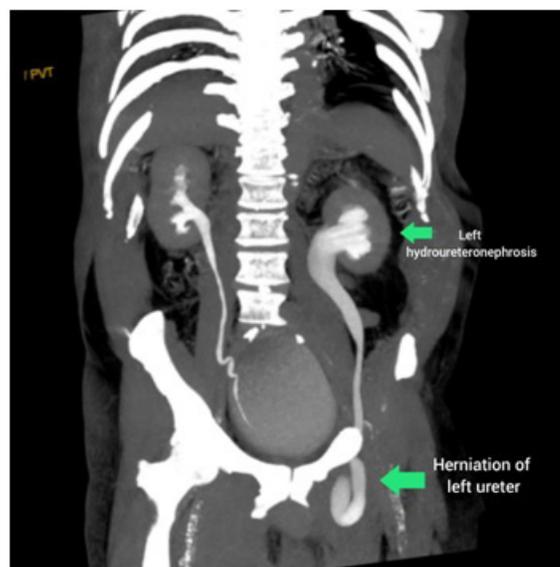


Figure A: CT Urogram (coronal view) showing left hydronephrosis and inguinal herniation of left ureter