



Sofia VASCONCELOS-CASTRO¹, Maria GARCIA¹, José ESTEVÃO-COSTA¹
Acta Med Port 2019 Oct;**32(10):676–676** ▪ <https://doi.org/10.20344/amp.10129>

Keywords: Appendicitis; Pneumatosis Cystoides Intestinalis
Palavras-chave: Apendicite; Pneumatose Cistoide Intestinal

A 17-year-old boy presented with a 2-day history of right quadrant abdominal pain. His abdomen was painful with tenderness in the low right quadrant. The abdominal ultrasound (US) was inconclusive because of increased gas interposition. Computed tomography (Fig. 1) revealed extensive pneumatosis of the ascending colon (arrows) plus signs of acute appendicitis and an appendicolith (arrowhead). After transumbilical laparoscopic-assisted appendectomy for perforated appendicitis, the patient was discharged on the 5th post-operative day and is doing well.

Pneumatosis intestinalis, defined as the presence of gas within the gastrointestinal wall, may be explained by bacterial transmural migration secondary to luminal infection.¹ It is usually the signature of neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis, a potentially severe condition, but it may also be present in several diseases, such as rotavirus gastroenteritis, amenable to conservative approach.² As our case illustrates, pneumatosis coli may be present in acute appendicitis, obscuring and/or delaying the US diagnosis of this condition.

PROTECTION OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS

The authors declare that the procedures were followed according to the regulations established by the Clinical Research and Ethics Committee and to the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association.

DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

The authors declare having followed the protocols in use at their working center regarding patients' data publication.

FUNDING SOURCES

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

REFERENCES

1. Pai HJ, Wang CS, Hsieh CC, Wang WK, Yang BY. Pneumatosis intestinalis: a rare manifestation of acute appendicitis. *J Emerg Med*. 2009;37:127–30.
2. Vendryes C, Hunter CJ, Harlan SR, Ford HR, Stein J, Pierce JR. Pneumatosis intestinalis after laparoscopic appendectomy: case report and review of the literature. *J Pediatr Surg*. 2011;46:E21–4.

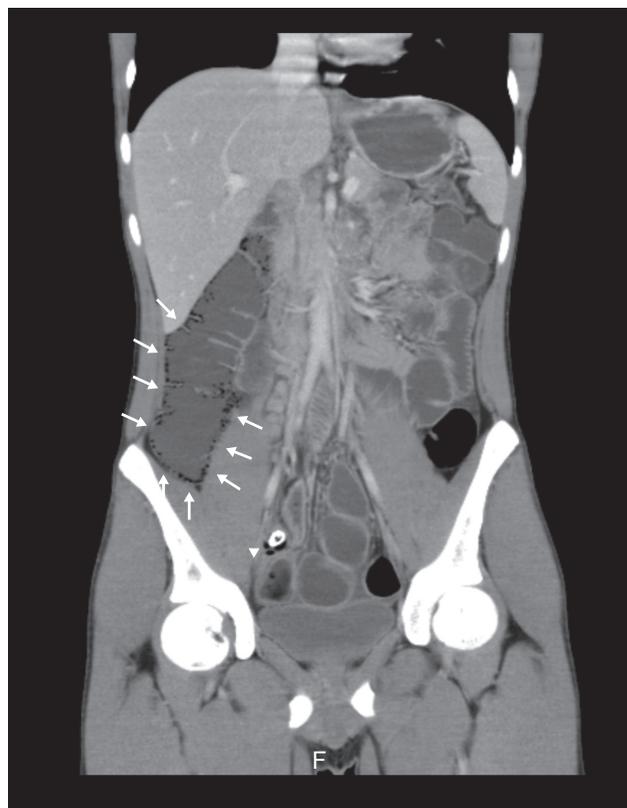


Figure 1 – CT scan: pneumatosis of the ascending colon (arrows); appendicolith (arrowhead)

PATIENT CONSENT

Obtained.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All authors report no conflict of interest.

¹. Department of Pediatric Surgery. Centro Hospitalar Universitário São João. Faculty of Medicine. Porto. Portugal.

✉ Autor correspondente: Sofia Vasconcelos-Castro. castro.sofia.v@gmail.com

Recebido: 21 de dezembro de 2017 – Aceite: 13 de dezembro de 2018 | Copyright © Ordem dos Médicos 2019

