

BOCHDALEK HERNIA IN THE ADULT: CASE REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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INTRODUCTION

The Bochdalek hernia can be diagnosed incidentally in adult patients, so rarely that to date a few more than 100 cases have been described in the literature, on the left side in 90%.

METHODS

We present the case of a healthy 28 year-old-man who presented with an acute onset of left flank pain. CT scan showed the herniation of part of the colon into the left thoracic cavity through the posterolateral part of the diaphragm. After exploration by VATS it was decided to convert to antero-lateral thoracotomy to lyse the strong adhesions in correspondence of the hilum in order to reduce the colon and the greater omentum in the abdominal cavity. The diaphragmatic defect was corrected with the insertion of a synthetic dual mesh plus direct suture.

RESULTS

The patient recovered uneventfully and was discharged from the hospital on the 13th postoperative day. Two months after he is asymptomatic.

DISCUSSION

The surgical approach has been thoroughly discussed: both thoracic and abdominal approaches have been described in the literature. In this case we preferred the thoracic via because it enables a direct observation of the herniated viscera and allows an easier lysis of the adhesions with the hilum located in the posterolateral region of the diaphragm. As the choice of procedure. VATS is advantageous over thoracotomy for surgical exploration and intervention.