

# Anastomotic Leakage in a Patient with Acute Intestinal Obstruction Secondary to Appendiceal and Ileal Endometriosis: A Case Report

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## ABSTRACT

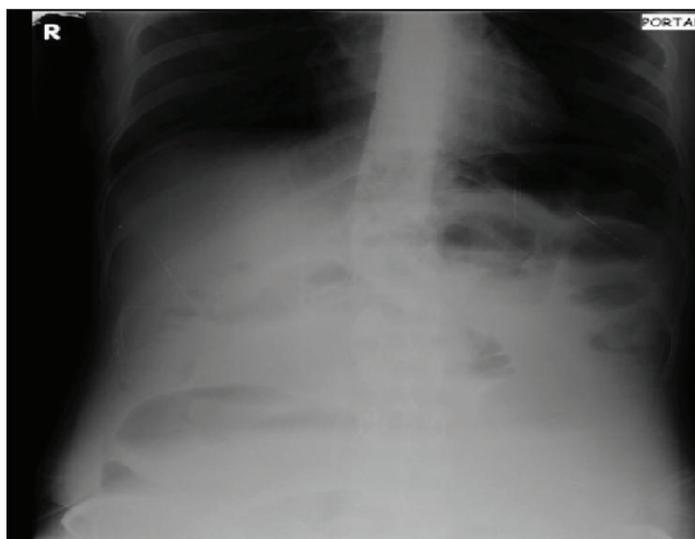
Endometriosis is a commonly encountered problem in women of reproductive age. It usually causes chronic abdominal pain. However, it rarely causes complications such as intestinal obstruction. The most commonly performed procedure for these patients is bowel resection and anastomosis. Unless it is complicated with anastomotic leakage. We present a 39-year-old woman presented with intestinal obstruction due to appendiceal and ileal endometriosis complicated with anastomotic leakage after surgery.

**Keywords:** Abdominol, Bowel, Gastrointestinal Endomertiosis, Ileostomy, leak

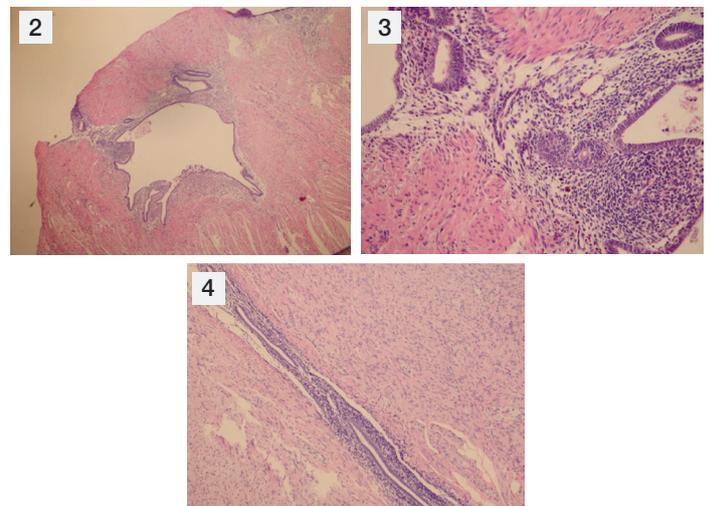
## CASE REPORT

A 39-year-old female patient was admitted to the Emergency Department with a complaint of abdominal pain, abdominal distention and constipation. Abdominal distention was present for 3 days accompanied with nausea and vomiting for over a day. The patient had a history of cyclic gastrointestinal problems like abdominal pain, constipation and nausea. She was admitted to the same hospital with these symptoms 3 months ago and the abdominal Computerized Tomography (CT) yielded no pathological findings.

On her second admission to the Emergency Department severe abdominal distention, hyperactive bowel sounds, abdominal tenderness and rebound in all four quadrants were observed on physical examination. Digital rectal examination was normal. Laboratory tests revealed a normal white cell count of 7900/mm<sup>3</sup> and a normal haemoglobin of 12.8 g/dL. Plain abdominal X-ray was consistent with a few small bowel loops [Table/Fig-1]. Patient was hospitalized and transferred to operating room. Laparotomy was done via midline incision. On exploration all ileal segments were dilated and obstruction was observed 5cm proximal to terminal ileum. Stricture-like intraluminal growth pattern of the tumour was observed. Proximal to the tumour 2 serosal implants were seen macroscopically. A 25cm of ileal segment was resected together



[Table/Fig-1]: Plain abdominal X-Ray of the patient showing small bowel loop.



[Table/Fig-2]: Endometrial gland and stroma in ileal muscular layer (H&E x40). [Table/Fig-3]: Endometrial gland and stroma and haemosiderin-laden macrophages (H&E x200). [Table/Fig-4]: Endometrial gland and stroma in appendiceal muscular layer (H&E x100)

with terminal ileum and ileocolic end-to-side anastomosis was done by 2-layered vicryl sutures. Drainage catheters were placed at right paracolic gutter and pelvis. Postoperatively patient was followed in General Surgery Ward. Anastomosis leakage was observed on postoperative day 5 and relaparotomy was performed urgently. Anterior side of the anastomosis was separated completely. Resection of cecum and maturation of double barrel ileostomy on right lower quadrant of the abdomen was done. Patient received wide-spectrum antibiotic treatment postoperatively and was discharged on postoperative day 10 with no other complication.

The microscopic findings were; endometrial gland and stroma in a focal field of ileum mucosa causing desquamation, erosion and obstruction [Table/Fig-2,3]. Endometrial gland and stroma was also found in the appendix [Table/Fig-4]. Hence the pathological diagnosis was endometriosis in appendix and ileum.

## DISCUSSION

Endometriosis (EM) is the presence of benign functional endometrial tissue outside uterine cavity and is one of the most common cause of chronic pelvic pain in women of reproductive age. It is usually located in the pelvis but extrapelvic sites such as colon, intestines, inguinal hernia sac and abdominal scars after gynecological surgery

have been reported [1]. Intestinal involvement of EM is reported to be 3-37% and appendiceal involvement <1% of all cases [2,3]. The most common sites in gastrointestinal system is sigmoid colon, rectum and distal ileum. Patients with gastrointestinal EM may present with symptoms such as chronic abdominal pain, abdominal distention, constipation and diarrhea. It may cause strictures, obstruction or even perforation of bowel [4,5]. Although the exact incidence of EM causing intestinal obstruction remains unclear, complete obstruction is seen <1% of all cases [6]. We present a case of both intestinal and appendiceal endometriosis in the same patient presenting with acute intestinal obstruction.

There are many theories about EM but the exact aetiology still remains unknown. Although clinical presentation is non-specific, patients usually have a complaint of cyclic abdominal pain. Bowel endometriosis most commonly (70%) found on the rectosigmoid colon and distal ileum is affected in 1-7% of patients [7]. It is usually difficult to establish accurate diagnosis because similar symptoms are seen in diseases such as irritable bowel syndrome, infectious and inflammatory bowel disease. Our patient also had gradual onset of symptoms terminating with total obstruction of small bowel. Diagnostic work-up for these patients include; ultrasound or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). They have high sensitivity and specificity rates in pelvic endometriosis unless fail to diagnose extrapelvic EM [8]. If there is bowel obstruction, these preoperative diagnostic methods become unnecessary and exploring the abdominal cavity makes both diagnosis and treatment. Although gold standard of endometriosis is laparoscopy [2], in case of bowel obstruction urgent laparotomy and resection of the affected segment is indicated. But in literature most commonly performed procedure is right hemicolectomy [1,9]. One of the reason is that EM is usually located in terminal ileum and authors tend to accept and treat this lesion as malignant according to macroscopic appearance. We performed segmental small bowel resection and anastomosis but unfortunately leakage of anastomosis lead us to perform end ileostomy. But as a result of the second operation, pathology specimen yielded another focus of EM, appendiceal endometriosis which was undetectable in the first operation. Thandassery et al., performed ileum resection and end ileostomy in a patient with endometriosis in terminal ileum causing small bowel obstruction thus ileostomy is an alternative surgical method in patients with EM presenting with bowel obstruction [10]. Right hemicolectomy seems radical surgery for these patients. Karaman et al., also performed ileum resection and end ileostomy and avoided anastomosis because of the excessive dilatation of the proximal part of the ileum and high risk for anastomotic leakage [11]. Ridha et al., performed small bowel resection, end-to-end anastomosis and appendectomy [12]. Slessler et al., were also found the lesion suspicious with malignancy and performed right hemicolectomy [13]. Although resection of the affected segment with anastomosis seems a good option for the treatment, in cases with total obstruction of bowel lumen or suspicion of anastomotic leakage ileostomy can be performed safely.

The incidence of anastomotic leakage is between 1.8-8.4% [14,15]. Multiple factors may affect leakage after ileocolic anastomosis

however mechanical bowel preparation is one of the most important factors among them [16] which is found to be significantly different from non-bowel preparation group ( $p < 0.0001$ ). We believe inability to perform mechanical bowel preparation is the reason anastomotic leakage in our patient.

Our case is unique in literature with anastomotic leakage after resection of the distal ileum and end-to-side anastomosis with implants of endometriosis causing bowel obstruction.

## CONCLUSION

Although acute intestinal obstruction due to endometriosis is an uncommon condition, it should be suspected in reproductive age women with a history of chronic abdominal pain. Bowel resection and enterostomy is the optimal surgical treatment for these kind of patients.

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