

IMAGES

Ultrasound diagnosis of a pelvic mass in the emergency department

Diagnóstico mediante ecografía de una masa pélvica en el servicio de urgencias

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A 12-year-old girl was referred to the emergency department for intermittent 2-day abdominal pain in the hypogastrium which had intensified in the last 2 hours, and rectal tenesmus. There was no menarche. The patient was afebrile, had a painful abdominopelvic mass on palpation, with the upper limit 6 cm from the pubic symphysis. She presented developed sexual characters and normal genitalia. Biochemistry and blood count were normal and a pregnancy test proved negative. Abdominal X-ray (Figure 1A) showed the presence of a pelvic mass. Ultrasound diagnosis was performed

in the emergency department (Figures 1B and 1C) by visualization of a hypoechogenic image with mottled retrovesical hyperechoic content, approximately 6 x 8 cm in size. These data allowed diagnosis of hematocolpos and imperforate hymen, which was drained. Imperforate hymen is a rare disease (0.1% of new-borns) that can lead to serious complications such as hematosalpinx, hemoperitoneum and endometriosis. The differential diagnosis of a pelvic mass in a girl with menarche must include this entity, and its diagnosis can be made with ultrasound performed at the bedside.

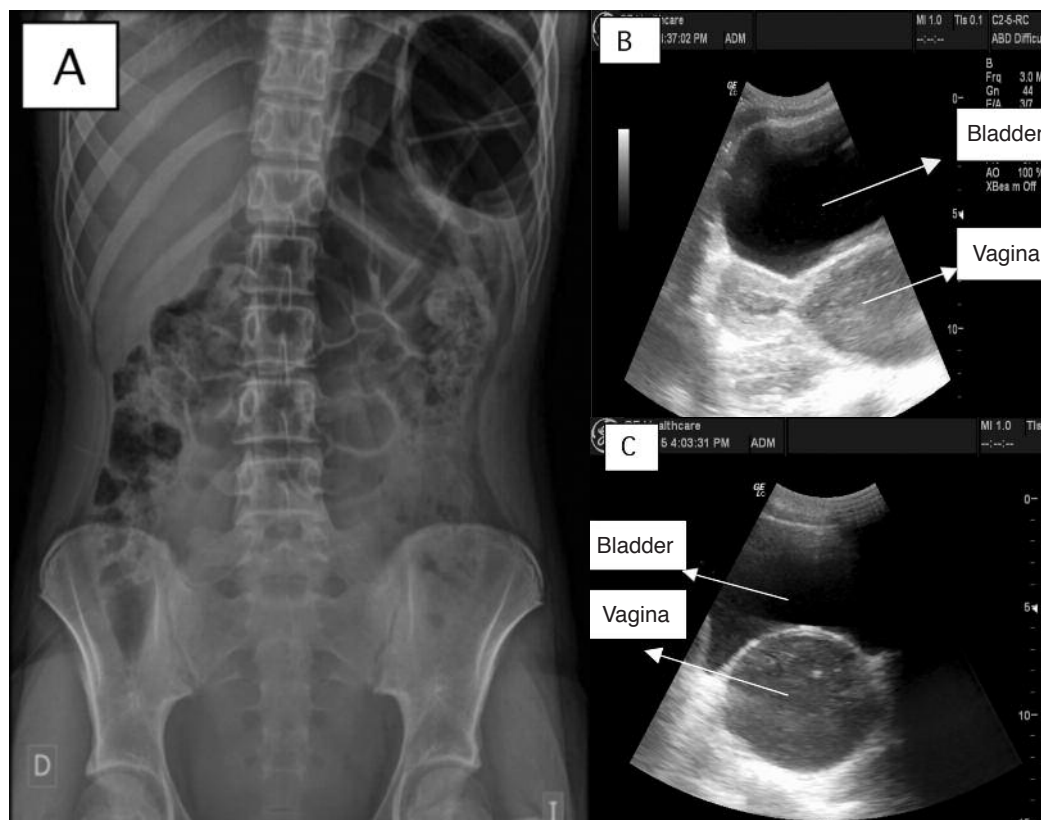


Figure 1. A) X-ray of the abdomen showing the pelvic mass. B and C) Ultrasound image acquired in the emergency department.

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