



Calcified mass in right upper abdomen

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Clinical

A 80-year-old she patient presented with nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. Her past medical history was diabetes mellitus and hypertension.

On abdominal examination, Murphy's sign was positive. An abdominal radiograph was performed (Figure 1). The patient declined surgery, which is the usual treatment, and was treated with antibiotics.

Figure 1



What is the diagnosis?

Answer

The abdominal radiograph shows a *porcelain gallbladder* arrowed (Figure 1).

Discussion

Porcelain gallbladder (calcification of the gallbladder wall) is a rare condition with prevalence in cholecystectomy specimens ranging from 0.06 to 0.8%.¹ It is most commonly found in the sixth decade of life, with a higher prevalence in woman.² The aetiology of porcelain gallbladder is still unclear.³

In recent reviews the association between porcelain gallbladder and carcinoma is less than that previously suggested (5–7%).⁴ However, a cholecystectomy may be performed on diagnosis because the risk of cancer is still increased.⁴

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