

Transverse colon volvulus presenting as bowel obstruction, atelectasis, and displacement of the right lobe of the liver into the left upper abdominal quadrant: A case report

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Case presentation: We report a case of transverse colon volvulus in a 35-year-old Congolese immigrant man who had a rare presentation with features of intestinal obstruction associated with right lung collapse and left mediastinal shift. He was admitted to Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital(FPRRH) with a 1-week history of colicky abdominal pain, abdominal distension, 3 days of non-bilious vomiting, and failure to pass stool and flatus. He also had difficulty in breathing which worsened over 5 days. On examination there was left tracheal deviation, displaced apex beat, hyperresonant percussion note over the right side of the chest with normal resonance over the left side of the chest, as well as absent breath sounds over the right side of the lung. Abdominal exam, the abdomen was moderately distended with visible bowel loops in the left upper quadrant. On palpation, the abdomen was tender, and tense but without guarding or rebound tenderness. Absent bowel sounds on auscultation. Conclusion: This case is unusual because it presented with respiratory features that mimicked a pneumothorax in addition to features of intestinal obstruction. The use of point-of-care lung ultrasound was helpful in ruling out a pneumothorax, and this could help avoid situations such as unintentional chest drain insertions by other professionals who may encounter a similar case. Because transverse colon volvulus is rare, a high level of suspicion and awareness is required to make an accurate diagnosis.

Biography

Kayiira Mubaraka is a medical doctor with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Kampala International University in 2017 and Postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management from Uganda Management Institute (2022). He has five years of clinical experience working on clinical trials involving medical devices, Sudan Virus Disease therapeutics, and COVID-19 vaccines. He also has experience in providing clinical care to patients admitted to Ebola Treatment Units. He has a great interest in the use of point-of-care ultrasonography in the management of patients. He has also worked with the World Health Organization and the Infectious Diseases Institute at Makerere University, College of Health Sciences.