Not Just a Cyst: A Rare Presentation of LUQ Pain

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Lymphangioma is a benign congenital malformation of the lymphatic system that is relatively common in juvenile population. Rarely, it can be seen in adults and majority of the cases are reported in the head and neck region (70-75%). Typically, these malformations are asymptomatic. In this report, we present a rare case of splenic lymphangioma presenting with severe, intractable abdominal pain.

Clinical presentation of splenic lymphangioma varies depending on the spleen size with majority of the patients being asymptomatic. The diagnosis is usually made incidentally on routine imaging studies. Based on the clinical data and imaging results, our differential diagnosis included hemangioma, complex splenic cyst, lymphangioma, lymphoma, and pseudocysts. The splenic lymphangioma was diagnosed on microscopic examination following a splenectomy which was done to avoid any further complications such as; infection, rupture, hemorrhage and pleural effusions. The treatment modality of choice was complete surgical resection in this patient given relevant history. Other therapeutic modalities such as aspiration or drainage have not shown effective results in the literature. Despite the rarity, early recognition of these lesions is important as the delay in surgical intervention can result in complications.