



## Cecum perforation of unknown etiology in early postpartum period – a case report

**Authors:** Viktorija Knežević<sup>1</sup>, Karla Lužaić<sup>1</sup>, Jure Brkić, MD<sup>2</sup> (mentor), Martin Grbavac, MD<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

<sup>2</sup> Department of Surgery, Clinical Hospital Sveti Duh, Zagreb, Croatia

### Background:

Among serious early complications in postpartum patients, colonic perforation is extremely rare. It can be seen more commonly following a caesarean section (C-section) than a normal vaginal delivery. This case report shows an infrequent complication in the postpartum period in a previously healthy patient.

### Case presentation:

A 31-year-old female patient presented to the emergency department due to severe abdominal pain and fever, two days after a successful C-section was performed without reported intraoperative complications. The patient complained of crampy pain in the upper abdomen, weakness, and belching. Physical examination showed a distended abdomen with diffuse pain and guarding. Peristaltic sounds were not heard on auscultation. Additionally, a gynaecological examination was conducted which showed no gynaecological pathology other than a small volume of free fluid in the Douglas pouch. Laboratory parameters were within normal limits, except for slightly lower haemoglobin (93 g/dl) and elevated markers of inflammation (C-reactive protein 365 mg/l, procalcitonin 1,38 µg/L). Emergency multislice computed tomography (MSCT) of the abdomen and pelvis was performed and found signs of significant pneumoperitoneum and air-fluid levels. Immediately, surgery was performed, and exploration revealed excessive amounts of free fluid and multiple perforations of the cecum. A right hemicolectomy was carried out. The postoperative period was uneventful, and the patient in good clinical condition was discharged to home care with the recommended control referral.

### Conclusion:

Colon perforation is an extremely rare complication in postpartum patients and rapid diagnosis with immediate treatment is required.

### Keywords:

Caesarian section, Cecum perforation; Pneumoperitoneum; Postpartum complications