



Complicated Allen–Masters syndrome

F. Guerra¹  · F. Petrelli¹ · P. Stortoni¹ · A. Patriti¹

Received: 24 September 2019 / Accepted: 2 November 2019 / Published online: 12 November 2019
© Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2019

An otherwise healthy woman, 61 years old, was admitted to the emergency department suffering from abdominal pain that began 6 h prior to presentation and vomiting. A computed tomography scan of the abdomen (Fig. 1) revealed signs of mechanical small bowel obstruction and laparoscopic exploration was undertaken. At surgery, a closed loop of distal ileum herniated through a defect in the right broad

ligament with resulting strangulation was revealed (Figs. 2, 3). Allen and Masters first described the presence of a defect in the broad ligament in association with a clinical syndrome dominated by dyspareunia, excessive physical fatigue and dysmenorrhea [1]. Occasionally, attention is drawn to the defect by the occurrence of small bowel obstruction or strangulation [2, 3], as in the present case.

✉ F. Guerra
fra.guerra.mail@gmail.com

¹ Division of General Surgery, Ospedali Riuniti Marche Nord, Pesaro, Italy



Fig. 1 Abdominal computed tomography scan revealing signs of mechanical small bowel obstruction. The uterus (asterisk) is displaced laterally

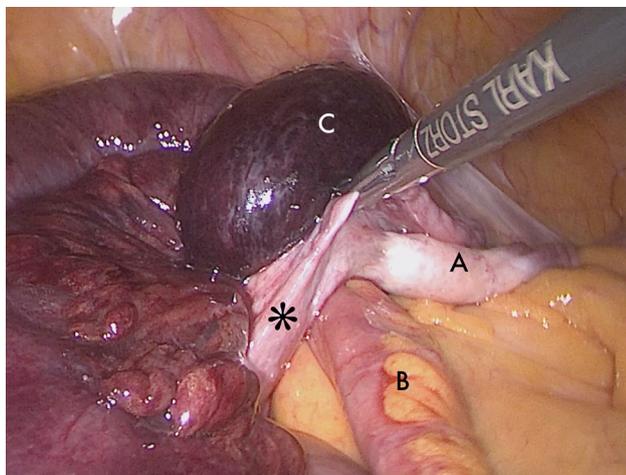


Fig. 2 Surgical findings of the ileum herniated through the right broad ligament with resulting bowel ischemia. **a** right ovary; **b** viable bowel segment; **c** frankly ischaemic bowel; asterisk: right broad ligament

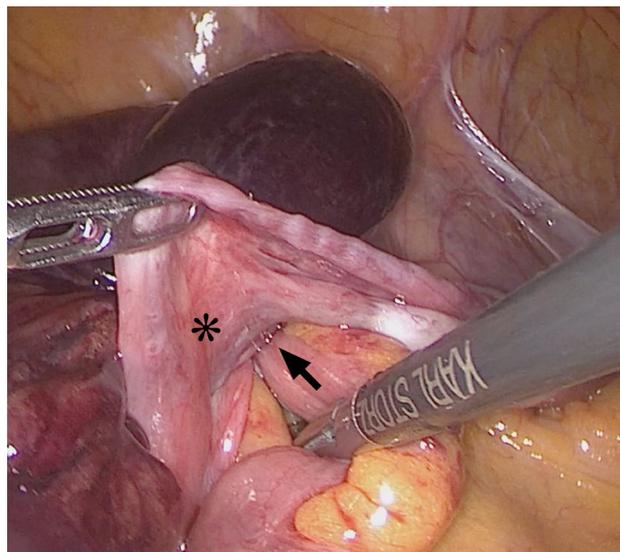


Fig. 3 Surgical findings of the ileum herniated through the right broad ligament with resulting bowel ischemia. Note the defect (arrow) in the right broad ligament (asterisk)

References

1. Allen WM, Masters WH (1955) Traumatic laceration of uterine support; the clinical syndrome and the operative treatment. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 70:500–513
2. Lewis MI (1969) Small-bowel obstruction secondary to traumatic lacerations of the uterine supports (The Allen-Masters syndrome). *Dis Colon Rectum* 12:253–255
3. Cleator IG, Bowden WM (1972) Bowel herniation through a defect of the broad ligament. *Br J Surg* 59:151–153

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval Ethical approval was not required for this type of report.

Informed consent Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.