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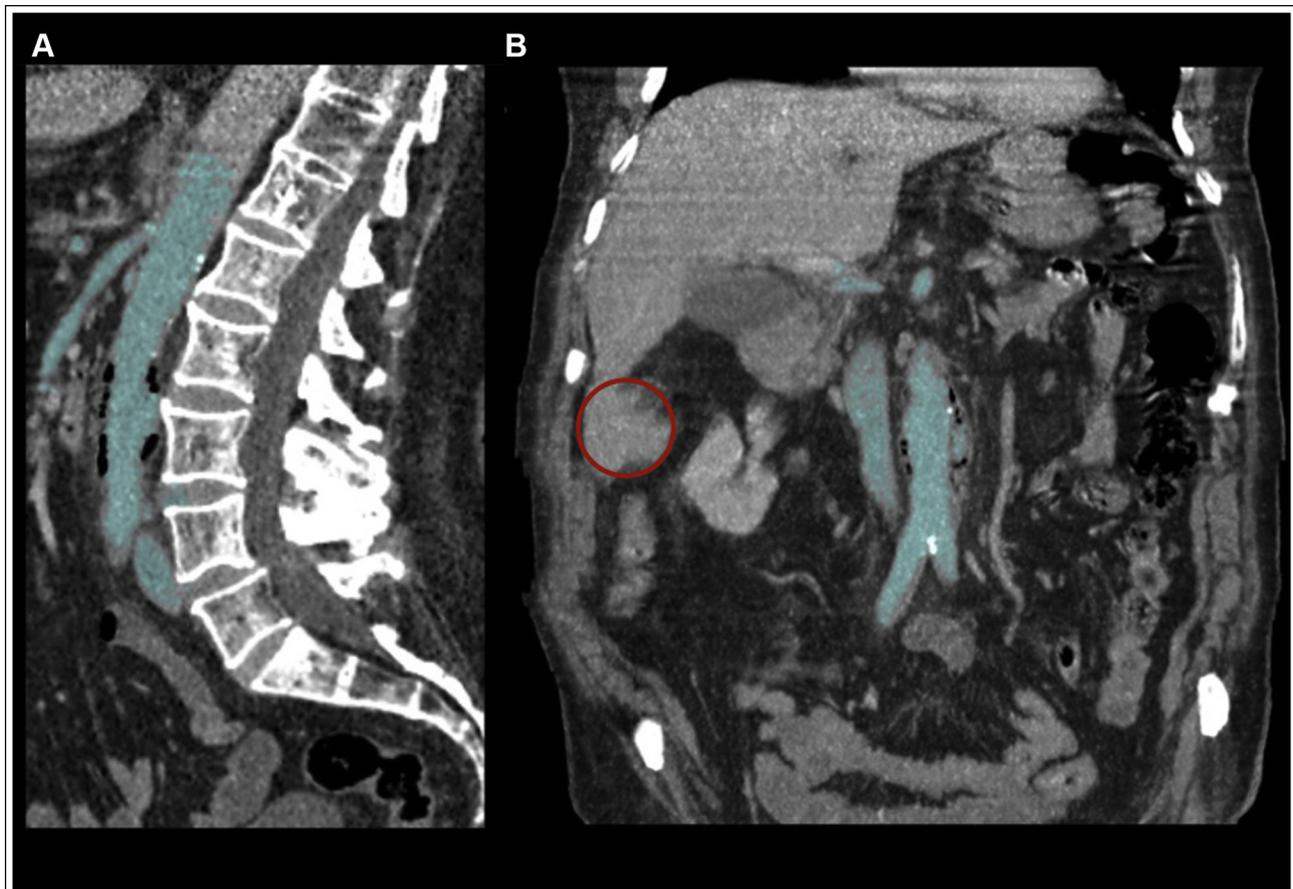
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## COUP D’OEIL

# Emphysematous Aortitis by *Clostridium septicum*: A Rare and Lethal Complication of Right Colon Cancer

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An 84 year old hypertensive man presented with four days of abdominal pain and fever. A computed tomography scan revealed emphysematous aortitis with gas in the abdominal aortic wall (A) and a colonic tumour in the hepatic flexure (B, circled). Emergency surgery with infected aortic segment excision and axillofemoral bypass was performed. No colonic resection was carried out owing to the patient's haemodynamic status. Intra-operative tissue cultures were positive for *Clostridium septicum*. In the immediate post-operative period, the patient died as a result of septicaemia. Emphysematous aortitis caused by *C. septicum* bacteraemia is a rare and life threatening condition strongly associated with colonic carcinoma.

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