



Thimble bladder

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A “thimble bladder” is a small contracted bladder consequent to extreme mural fibrosis with contracture of the bladder wall, most commonly seen as a result of genitourinary tuberculosis (TB). [1]. The small, contracted, thick walled bladder resembles a sewing thimble (Fig. 1, the thimble), and has been described on all imaging modalities, including CT urography (Fig. 2a–c). Bladder involvement in urinary TB is usually a “downstream” result of renal infection and is present in one third of patients with renal TB [2]. Due to its

small capacity, the thimble bladder may present with urinary frequency and urgency or even urinary incontinence [2]. A thimble bladder from TB has been associated with additional urinary tract complications including ureteric obstruction and reflux, mural calcification in the bladder, and rarely, deformity of the bladder termed the “hourglass” bladder [3]. Imaging modalities used in the diagnosis of genitourinary tuberculosis include plain radiography, ultrasound, intravenous urography, retrograde pyelography, CT, and MRI [2].

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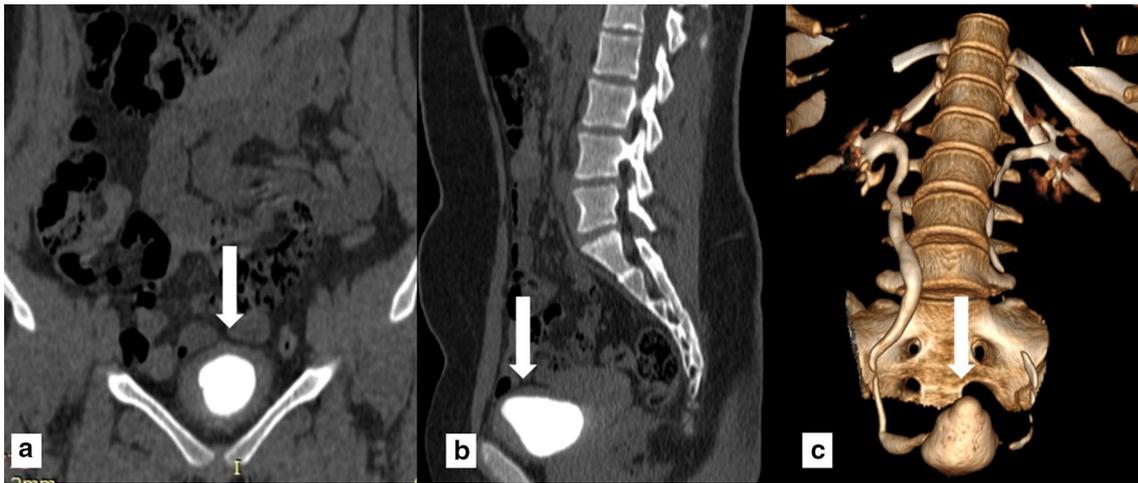


Fig. 1 Excretory phase CT coronal (a) and sagittal (b) reformat showing small capacity urinary bladder with thickened wall. Volume rendered images of excretory phase CT (c) shows small capacity urinary bladder resembling a thimble



Fig. 2 Photograph of a Lofting type thimble Holmes type III (Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/0/0c/Lofting_type.jpg)

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest All authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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