



ESSENTIAL IMAGE / *Abdominal imaging*

## Bilateral arcuate line hernia featuring the “ladybug’s elytra” sign



**B. Coulier**

*Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Clinique St Luc, Bouge, 5004 Namur, Belgium*

A 59-year-old woman complaining of alternating episodes of diarrhea and constipation underwent contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) examination. CT revealed a huge, bilateral, symmetrical arcuate line hernia (ALH) (Fig. 1a) featuring the “ladybug’s elytra” sign (Fig. 1b). The right ALH contained a segment of the transverse colon whereas the left ALH contained proximal ileal loops. Both hernias communicated largely with the peritoneal cavity (Fig. 1c). No dilatation of the gastrointestinal tract nor fat stranding were observed and the hernias were considered fortuitous findings. ALH is a rather rare peculiar type of interstitial hernia protruding under the arcuate

line of Douglas [1]. It is predominantly found in old men, with a male-to-female ratio of 12.5:1. Therefore, bilateral grade 3 ALHs containing frank protrusion of peritoneal structures are extremely rare in woman. Most ALHs remain clinically asymptomatic and fortuitous findings. Surgical treatment is only required in symptomatic patients [2].

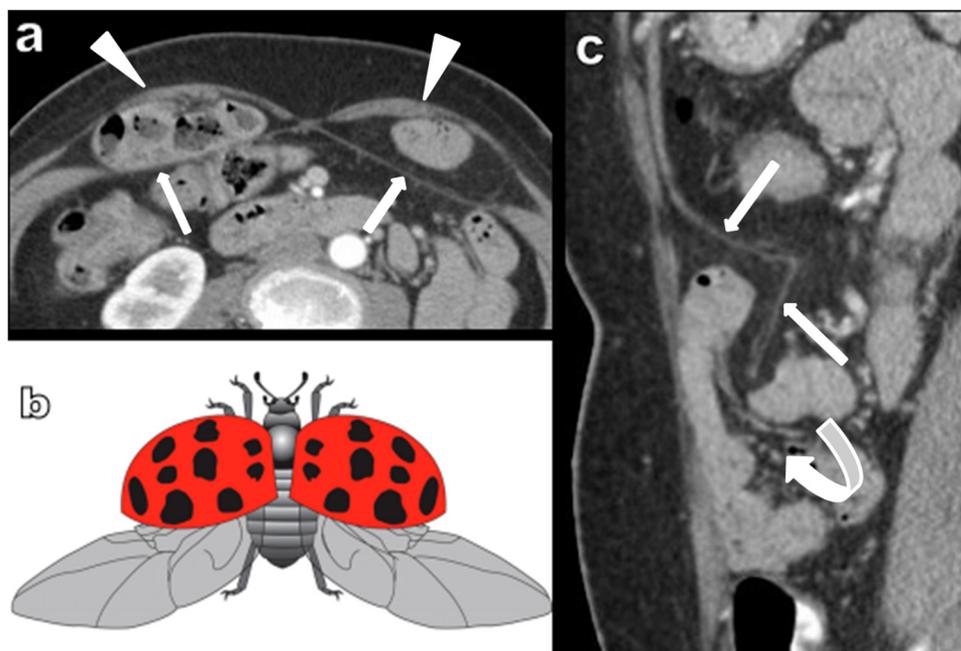
### Disclosure of interest

The author declares that he has no competing interest.

*E-mail address:* [bcoulier.md@gmail.com](mailto:bcoulier.md@gmail.com)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diii.2018.12.002>

2211-5684/© 2018 Société française de radiologie. Published by Elsevier Masson SAS. All rights reserved.



**Figure 1.** 59-year-old woman complaining of alternating episodes of diarrhea and constipation: a: contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) image in the transverse plane reveals bilateral arcuate line hernia. The right hernia contains a segment of the transverse colon and the left hernia contains small bowel loops. The hernias are located between rectus abdominis muscles (arrowheads) anteriorly and the inferior part of posterior rectus sheaths (arrows) posteriorly; b: drawing illustrates the “elytra’s bug” sign; c: contrast-enhanced CT image in the sagittal plane through the left arcuate line hernia shows direct communication between herniated small bowel loops (curved arrow) and peritoneal cavity. Arrows indicate inferior edge of left posterior rectus sheath.

## References

- [1] Coulier B. Multidetector computed tomography features of linea arcuata (arcuate-line of Douglas) and linea arcuata hernias. *Surg Radiol Anat* 2007;29:397–403.
- [2] Verlynde G, Coulier B, Rubay R. Twisted parietal peritoneal lipomatous appendage incarcerated in a linea arcuata hernia: Imaging findings. *Diagn Interv Imaging* 2016;97:1201–3.