

Extraordinary Inguinal Varicosities with Concomitant Superficial Thrombophlebitis Due to Superior Vena Cava Syndrome in Pregnancy

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Purpose

We report a pregnant patient with severe sequelae of benign superior vena cava syndrome (SVCS) including venous congestion with extensive collateralization, inguinal varicosities, and superficial thrombophlebitis. Conservative management with anticoagulation provided symptomatic peripartum relief.



Case

35-year-old pregnant female (33 weeks) with large, painful inguinal varicosities and concomitant palpable, tender, and enlarged veins in her anterior chest, abdominal wall, and left groin. She previously underwent SVC stenting in 2013. Vascular ultrasound was obtained showing multiple varicosities in the left groin measuring 2.4 cm with chronic, non-occlusive thrombus consistent with thrombophlebitis. CT chest and abdomen demonstrated an occluded SVC stent with extensive collaterals in the chest and abdominal wall. Anticoagulation was initiated.





Figure 1: varicosities in left groin



Figure 2: varicosities in left groin with thrombus



Figure 3: long axis view of left groin varicosities

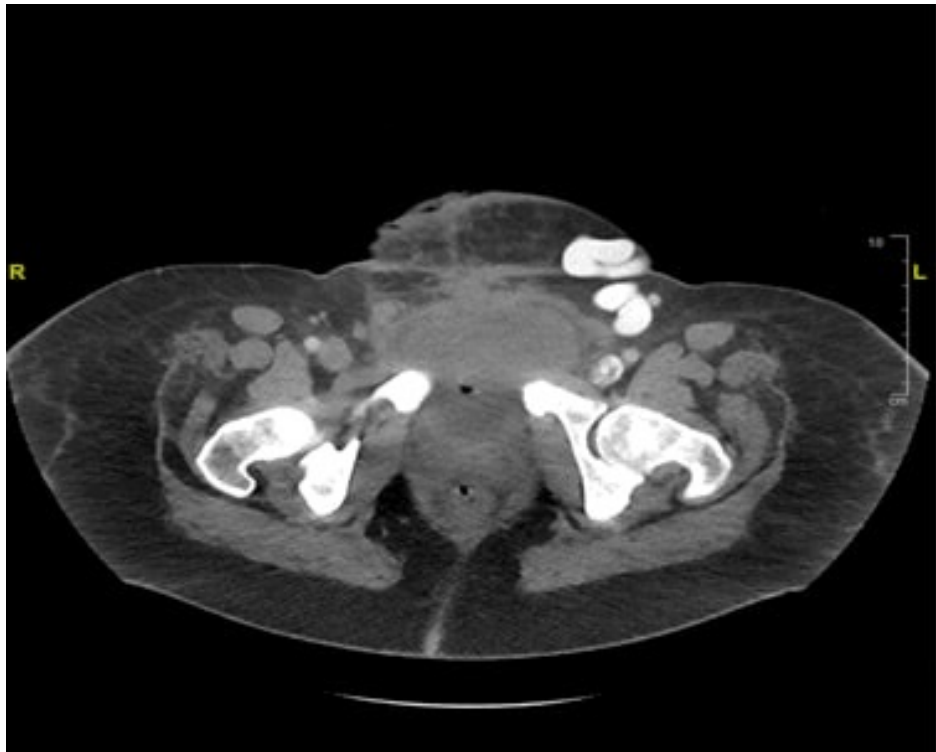


Figure 5: CT axial images of L groin varicosities

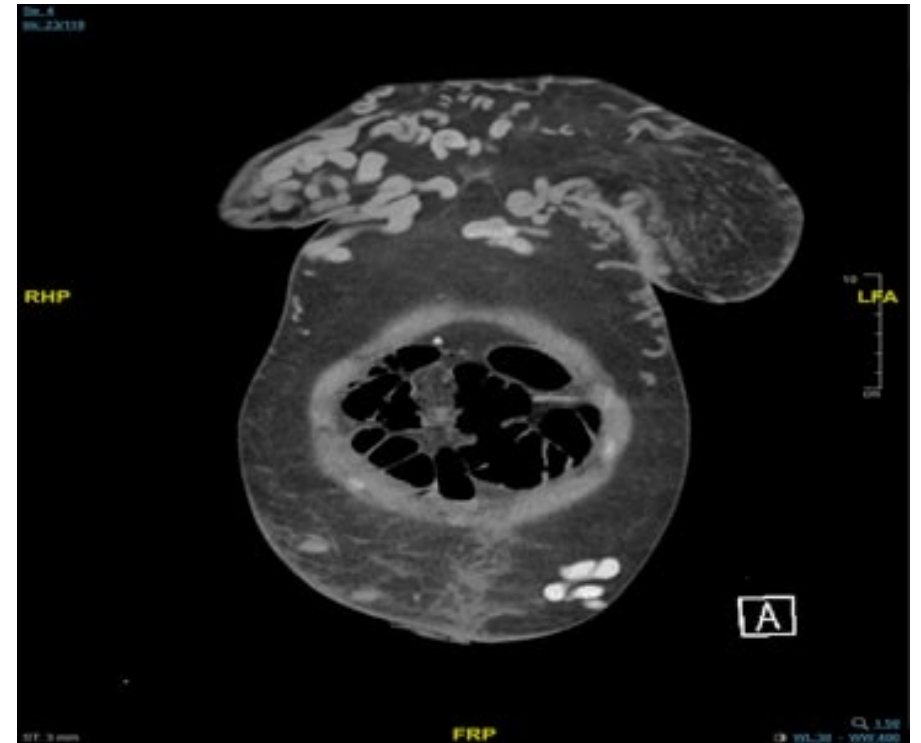


Figure 6: CT coronal images of abdominal wall varicosities



Results

- The patient was delivered via caesarean section 7 days after our initial consultation. Her symptoms improved after delivery. At 4 month follow up, she reported that her pain had returned.
- The patient was taken to the OR 10/30 for revascularization and stenting. She will remain on her anticoagulation until follow-up.



Conclusions

- Superior vena cava syndrome (SVCS) is a constellation of signs and symptoms due to obstruction of the SVC including large and extensive venous collateralization which can complicate pregnancy due to superficial thrombophlebitis. Anticoagulation can provide effective symptomatic peripartum relief.
- Superficial thrombophlebitis is usually benign, self-limiting, and treated with conservative management with NSAIDs and compression stockings.
- Varicose veins account for 90% of cases.



Conclusions (cont.)

- Duplex US is indicated when superficial vein thrombosis is suspected and used to determine the extent of thrombosis and distance from the deep system.
- Anticoagulation can be considered in patients with involved vein segment > 5 cm, < 5 cm away from deep system, risk factors for thrombosis, or propagation of thrombus seen on repeat imaging.



References

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VASCULAR FORUM

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