

PERFORATION OF GASTRIC ULCER IN A TEENAGE PATIENT: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction. Detectability of peptic ulcer disease (PUD) in the population of children and adolescents constantly increases. Early diagnosis and treatment decrease the risk of complications in the form of perforation. Consequently ulcer perforation in this age group is rare and its diagnosis can be difficult for pediatricians and pediatric surgeons.

Aim. To present medical history, clinical symptoms, diagnostic methods and introduced treatment.

Materials and methods. The authors present the case of a 16-year-old female patient with previously undiagnosed PUD and with gastric perforation.

Results and discussion. A 16-year-old female patient was admitted to the emergency department, reporting severe epigastric pain which appeared suddenly during intense physical activity. The interview excluded PUD. Abdominal ultrasound scanning detected no pathologies. An abdominal X-ray showed gas in the left subdiaphragm. On the basis of the persistent clinical symptoms and laboratory test results the patient was qualified for laparoscopy. During this procedure, an ulcer perforation located in the anterior gastric wall was identified and consequently sutured. During the postoperative period on the 5th day following surgical procedure, due to the exudate, the left pleural cavity was drained. The patient was discharged after 10 days of hospitalization in a stabilized condition, complaining of no pain. Currently, she remains under the care of the Surgery and Gastroenterology Outpatient Clinic.

Conclusions. The technique of minimally invasive treatment of gastric ulcer perforation carried out by an experienced team is effective and can be successfully employed to treat children.