

Clinical Image

Advancing Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy, A Few Messages

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Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is a safe and common procedure, but it can be associated with some complications. These complications may occur during the surgery or in the following days or weeks.

We will highlight some complications or risks of laparoscopic cholecystectomy through three clinical images while explaining the preventive measures [1,2].

Image 1

The gallbladder is anatomically located in an area where critical structures pass through (main bile ducts, cystic artery, hepatic artery, portal vein). Dissection must be performed carefully when separating the gallbladder from the hepatic parenchyma by clearly identifying the anatomical structures before any cutting (the "Critical View of Safety" method). This approach helps prevent injuries to the main bile ducts, arteries, or veins [1,3].

Image 2

Trocar site herniation is preventable with rigorous techniques and appropriate preventive measures.

An excessively large trocar site is associated with an increased risk, especially when inserted in weak areas such as the midline. Care should be taken to avoid traumatic insertion that may damage surrounding tissues during trocar placement.

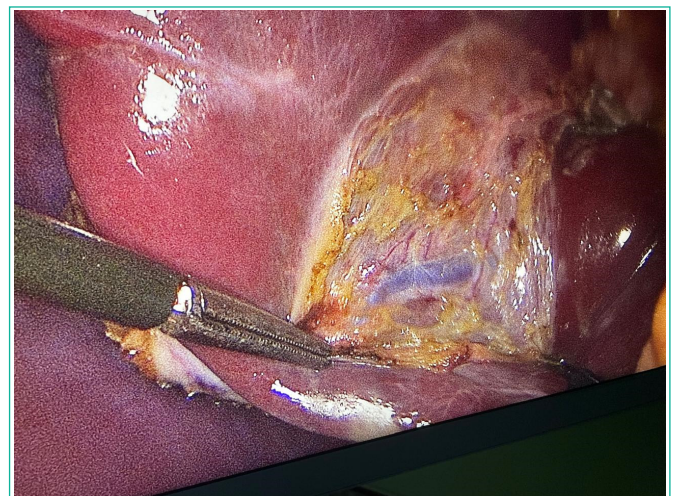


Figure 1: Identification of the segment VII portal branch during laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

Systematic and proper closure of trocar sites, particularly larger ones, can effectively prevent this type of complication [3,5].

Image 3

Using metal or absorbable clips is a common practice for ligating vascular and biliary structures (cystic duct, cystic artery) during laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

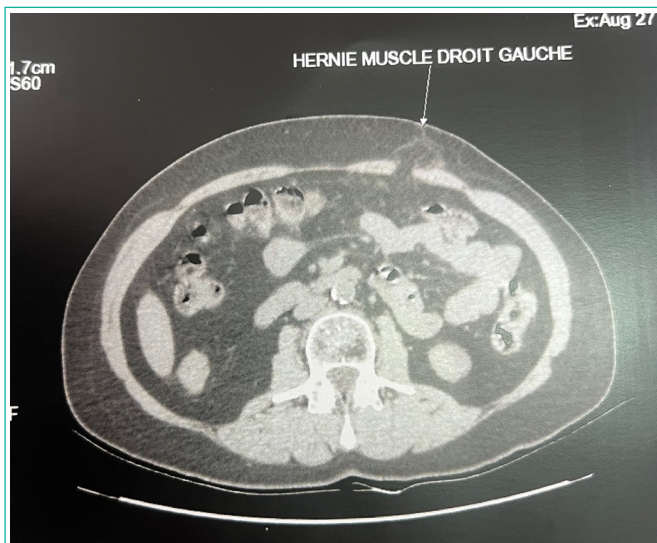


Figure 2: Herniation on the left rectus abdominis muscle following a laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

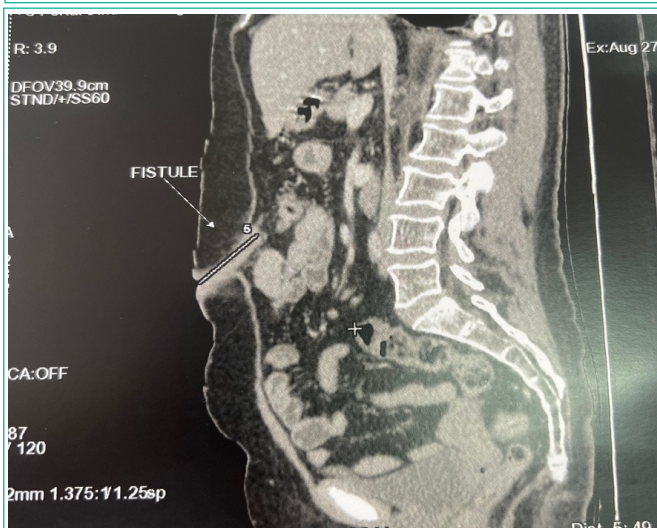


Figure 3: Active fistulous tract in the left paraumbilical region extending deeply into the preperitoneal space, measuring 7 mm in caliber and approximately 5 cm in length, along the pathway of the laparoscopic trocar. This is suggestive of a post-laparoscopy parietal fistula.

While clips are safe and widely used, improper application or technical issues can lead to serious complications, such as intra-abdominal abscesses, especially if the clips become infected or irritate surrounding tissues.

The dislodgement of metal clips into the umbilical port site is a rare but possible complication during laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This situation may occur primarily during the extraction of the gallbladder or the manipulation of surgical instruments.

If the clip remains in the umbilical port site or surrounding tissues, it may cause local irritation or infection. This highlights the importance of systematically placing the gallbladder in a retrieval bag before extraction through the reduced umbilical trocar. This practice minimizes the risk of disseminating stones, bile, or clips into the umbilical site [1,4].

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