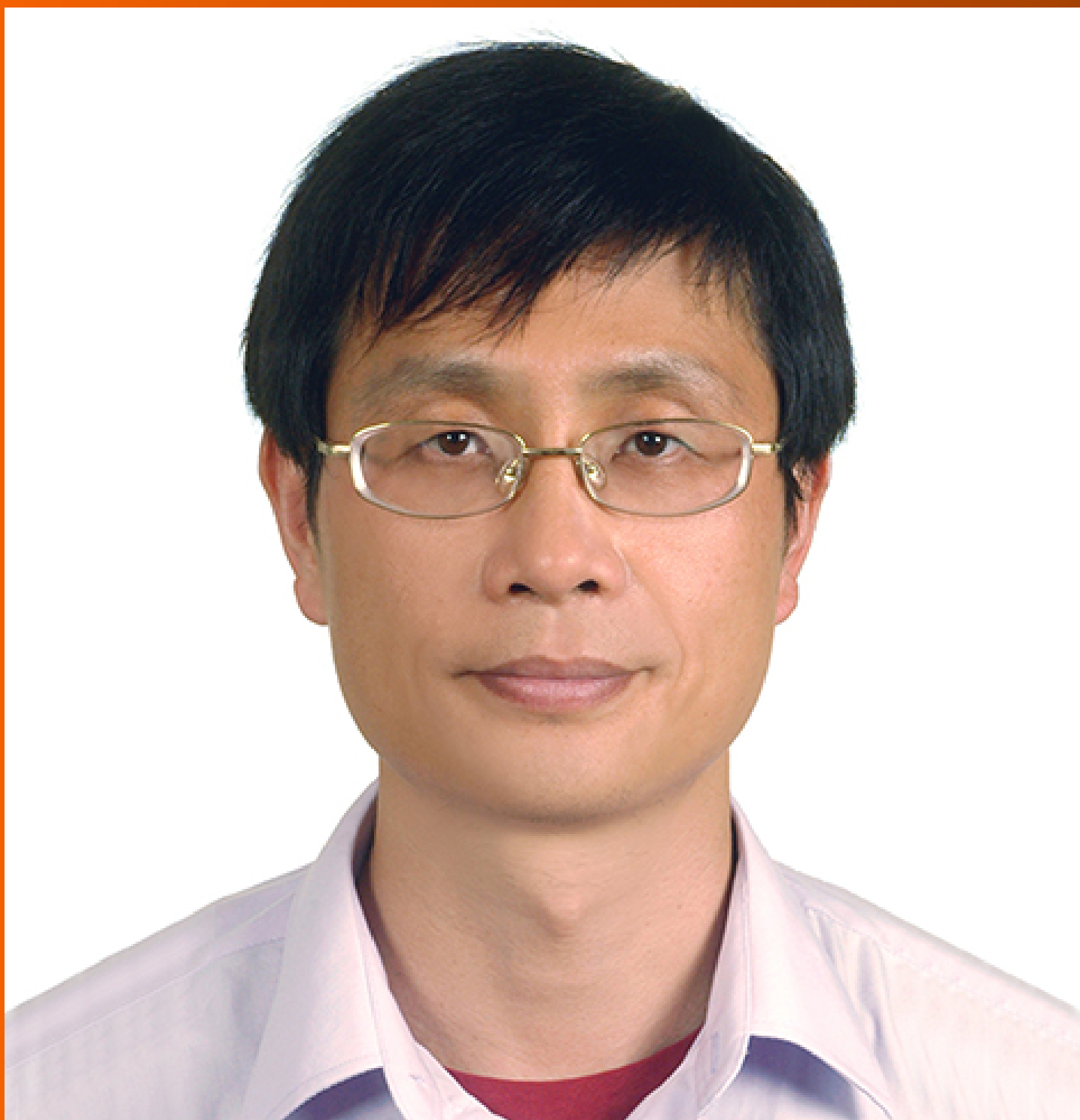


# World Journal of *Clinical Cases*

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## Contents

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## EDITORIAL

- 671 Tenosynovitis of hand: Causes and complications  
*Muthu S, Annamalai S, Kandasamy V*
- 677 Early antiplatelet therapy used for acute ischemic stroke and intracranial hemorrhage  
*Buddhavarapu V, Kashyap R, Surani S*

## MINIREVIEWS

- 681 Postoperative accurate pain assessment of children and artificial intelligence: A medical hypothesis and planned study  
*Yue JM, Wang Q, Liu B, Zhou L*
- 688 Application and mechanisms of Sanhua Decoction in the treatment of cerebral ischemia-reperfusion injury  
*Wang YK, Lin H, Wang SR, Bian RT, Tong Y, Zhang WT, Cui YL*

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Clinical and Translational Research

- 700 Identification and validation of a new prognostic signature based on cancer-associated fibroblast-driven genes in breast cancer  
*Wu ZZ, Wei YJ, Li T, Zheng J, Liu YF, Han M*

## Retrospective Study

- 721 Rehabilitation care for pain in elderly knee replacement patients  
*Liu L, Guan QZ, Wang LF*
- 729 Effect of early stepwise cardiopulmonary rehabilitation on function and quality of life in sepsis patients  
*Zheng MH, Liu WJ, Yang J*
- 737 Influence of initial check, information exchange, final accuracy check, reaction information nursing on the psychology of elderly with lung cancer  
*Jiang C, Ma J, He W, Zhang HY*
- 746 Experience of primary intestinal lymphangiectasia in adults: Twelve case series from a tertiary referral hospital  
*Na JE, Kim JE, Park S, Kim ER, Hong SN, Kim YH, Chang DK*

## Observational Study

- 758 Perceived stress among staff in Saudi Arabian dental colleges before and after an accreditation process: A cross-sectional study  
*Shaiban AS*

**META-ANALYSIS**

- 766 Comprehensive effects of traditional Chinese medicine treatment on heart failure and changes in B-type natriuretic peptide levels: A meta-analysis  
*Xia LL, Yang SY, Xu JY, Chen HQ, Fang ZY*

**CASE REPORT**

- 777 Mechanical upper bowel obstruction caused by a large trichobezoar in a young woman: A very unusual case report  
*Scherrer M, Kornprat P, Sucher R, Muehlsteiner J, Wagner D*
- 782 Accidental placement of venous return catheter in the superior vena cava during venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for severe pneumonia: A case report  
*Song XQ, Jiang YL, Zou XB, Chen SC, Qu AJ, Guo LL*
- 787 Gestational diabetes mellitus combined with fulminant type 1 diabetes mellitus, four cases of double diabetes: A case report  
*Li H, Chai Y, Guo WH, Huang YM, Zhang XN, Feng WL, He Q, Cui J, Liu M*
- 795 Clinical experience sharing on gastric microneuroendocrine tumors: A case report  
*Wang YJ, Fan DM, Xu YS, Zhao Q, Li ZF*
- 801 Endoscopic retrograde appendicitis treatment for periappendiceal abscess: A case report  
*Li QM, Ye B, Liu JW, Yang SW*
- 806 Hemichorea in patients with temporal lobe infarcts: Two case reports  
*Wang XD, Li X, Pan CL*
- 814 Monomorphic epitheliotropic intestinal T-cell lymphoma with bone marrow involved: A case report  
*Zhang FJ, Fang WJ, Zhang CJ*
- 820 Inetetamab combined with tegafur as second-line treatment for human epidermal growth factor receptor-2-positive gastric cancer: A case report  
*Zhou JH, Yi QJ, Li MY, Xu Y, Dong Q, Wang CY, Liu HY*
- 828 Pedicled abdominal flap using deep inferior epigastric artery perforators for forearm reconstruction: A case report  
*Jeon JH, Kim KW, Jeon HB*
- 835 Individualized anti-thrombotic therapy for acute myocardial infarction complicated with left ventricular thrombus: A case report  
*Song Y, Li H, Zhang X, Wang L, Xu HY, Lu ZC, Wang XG, Liu B*
- 842 Multiple paradoxical embolisms caused by central venous catheter thrombus passing through a patent foramen ovale: A case report  
*Li JD, Xu N, Zhao Q, Li B, Li L*

- 847**    Rupture of a giant jejunal mesenteric cystic lymphangioma misdiagnosed as ovarian torsion: A case report  
*Xu J, Lv TF*
- 853**    Adenocarcinoma of sigmoid colon with metastasis to an ovarian mature teratoma: A case report  
*Wang W, Lin CC, Liang WY, Chang SC, Jiang JK*
- 859**    Perforated gastric ulcer causing mediastinal emphysema: A case report  
*Dai ZC, Gui XW, Yang FH, Zhang HY, Zhang WF*
- 865**    Appendicitis combined with Meckel's diverticulum obstruction, perforation, and inflammation in children: Three case reports  
*Sun YM, Xin W, Liu YF, Guan ZM, Du HW, Sun NN, Liu YD*



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## Rupture of a giant jejunal mesenteric cystic lymphangioma misdiagnosed as ovarian torsion: A case report

Jing Xu, Tie-Feng Lv

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### Abstract

#### BACKGROUND

Cystic lymphangioma is a rare benign tumor that affects the lymphatic system. Mesenteric lymphangiomas in the small bowel are extremely uncommon.

#### CASE SUMMARY

We present a 21-year-old female patient who complained of abdominal pain. The diagnosis of ovarian torsion was suspected after abdominopelvic unenhanced computed tomography and ultrasound revealed a large cyst in contact with the bladder, ovary, and uterus. The patient underwent emergency laparotomy performed by gynecologists, but it was discovered that the cystic tumor originated from the jejunum. Gastrointestinal surgeons were then called in to perform a cystectomy. Pathological examination confirmed the diagnosis of cystic lymphangioma of the mesentery. The patient had an uneventful postoperative recovery.

#### CONCLUSION

Mesenteric lymphangiomas can cause abdominal pain, and imaging techniques can help determine their characteristics, location, and size. Complete surgical excision and pathological examination are considered the standard treatment and diagnostic method.

**Key Words:** Rupture; Jejunum; Mesenteric cystic lymphangioma; Ovarian torsion; Surgical excision; Pathological examination; Case report

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**Core Tip:** Cystic lymphangioma is a benign malformation tumor of the lymphatic system. Mesenteric lymphangiomas in the small bowel are rare.

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## INTRODUCTION

Lymphangiomas are benign tumors which may evolve from congenital malformations of lymphatic vessels[1]. Lymphangiomas are rare cystic tumors which are usually located in the axilla and neck of children[2]. Mesenteric lymphangiomas of the small bowel in adults are extremely rare and are fewer than 1% of all lymphangiomas[3]. In this report, we present a case wherein the misdiagnosis of ovarian torsion occurred due to the rupture of a sizable jejunal mesenteric cystic lymphangioma.

## CASE PRESENTATION

### **Chief complaints**

A 21-year-old woman suffered abdominal pain for one day.

### **History of present illness**

The patient suffered abdominal pain for one day.

### **History of past illness**

She had no history of kidney disease, coronary heart disease, hypertension or diabetes.

### **Personal and family history**

No relevant personal or family history.

### **Physical examination**

Tenderness was found around the umbilicus.

### **Laboratory examinations**

Most laboratory test results, including serum amylase, glutamic-pyruvic transaminase, and creatinine levels, were within normal limits. However, serum C-reactive protein level was significantly elevated (90 mg/L) (Table 1).

### **Imaging examinations**

Based on ultrasound (US) (Figure 1A) and abdominopelvic unenhanced computed tomography (CT) results (Figure 1B), the diagnosis of ovarian torsion was suspected. The imaging studies revealed a large cyst (14 cm × 12 cm) in contact with the bladder, ovary, and uterus.

## FINAL DIAGNOSIS

The final diagnosis was cystic lymphangioma of the mesentery.

## TREATMENT

Emergency laparotomy was performed by gynecologists, but during the procedure, it was discovered that the cystic tumor originated from the jejunal mesentery (Figure 2A). A small rupture in the cyst led to the leakage of chylous fluid. Gastrointestinal surgeons were then called in to perform a cystectomy (Figure 2B-D). Pathological examination confirmed the diagnosis of cystic lymphangioma of the mesentery (Figure 3). The patient's postoperative recovery was uneventful (Figure 4).

## OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

The patient's postoperative recovery was uneventful.

**Table 1 Laboratory results before the patient underwent surgery**

	Laboratory result	Normal
WBC ( $\times 10^9/L$ )	7.9	3.4-9.5
EO ( $\times 10^9/L$ )	0.05	0.4-8.0
HB (g/L)	129	115-150
Platelet ( $\times 10^9/L$ )	351	125-350
PT (s)	11.6	9.7-13.5
Dimer (mg/L)	0.45	0.00-0.55
ALT (U/L)	13	9-50
TB ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )	14	3-20
Cr ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )	43	40-80
CA199 (kU/L)	16.8	0-35
CEA ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	0.3	0-5
CRP (mg/L)	90	0-10
Amylase (U/L)	91	35-135
Lipase (U/L)	84	0-190
Glucose (mmol/L)	5.6	3.0-6.1
HbsAg	Negative	Negative
HIV Ab	Positive	Negative
Sp Ab	Negative	Negative
ANA	Negative	Negative
HC Ab	Negative	Negative

ALT: Alanine aminotransferase; ANA: Anti-nuclear antibodies; CEA: Carcinoembryonic antigen; CA199: Carbohydrate antigen 199; Cr: Creatinine; CRP: C-reactive protein; EO: Eosinophil; HB: Hemoglobin; HbsAg: Hepatitis B surface antigen; HC Ab: Hepatitis C antibody; HIV Ab: Human immunodeficiency virus antibody; PT: Prothrombin time; Sp Ab: Syphilis antibody; TB: Total bilirubin; WBC: White blood cell.

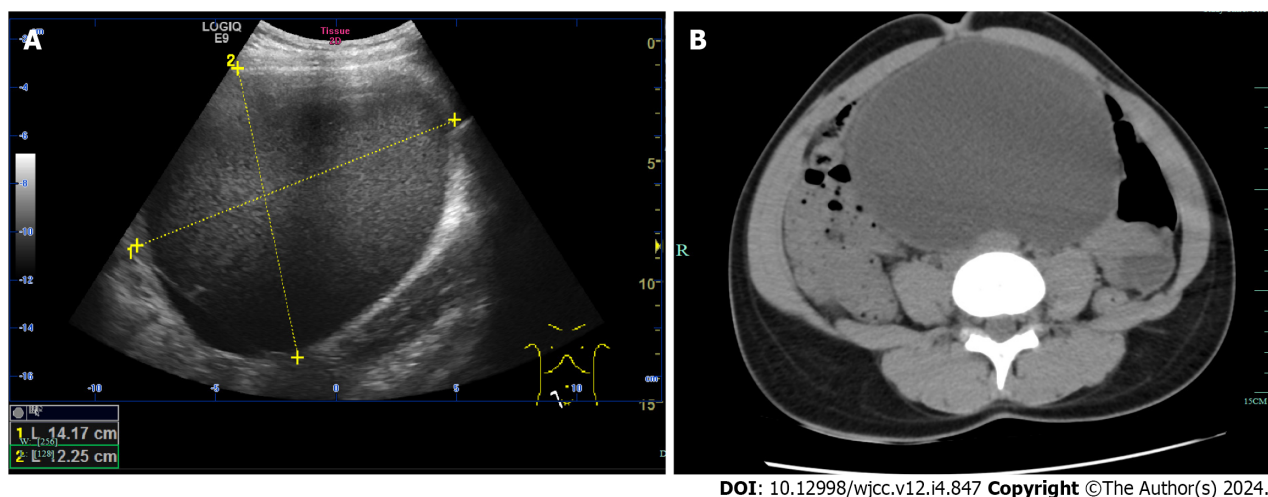
## DISCUSSION

Mesenteric cysts have a reported incidence ranging from one per 100000 to one per 250000 of in-patients[4]. Due to the lack of lymphatics, cystic lymphangiomas cannot affect the central nervous system[5]. The incidence of mesenteric lymphangiomas is approximately 1/20000 in children and 1/100000 in adults[6]. The cause of mesenteric lymphangiomas may be attributed to congenital abnormalities of the lymphatic system which induces sequestration of lymphatic tissues during development of the embryo[7]. However, other causes such as abdominal trauma, inflammation, lymphatic obstruction, and radiation therapy should be considered[8]. Mesenteric lymphangiomas are normally asymptomatic until they become large. The main symptoms include an abdominal mass and abdominal pain[9]. Histopathology of the surgical specimen may identify a unilocular or multilocular cyst containing serous or viscous fluid with cholesterol crystals, chylomicrons, and triglycerides encircled by a single layer of flattened immunoreactive mesothelial cells with cytokeratins and a fibrous wall with lymphocytes[10,11].

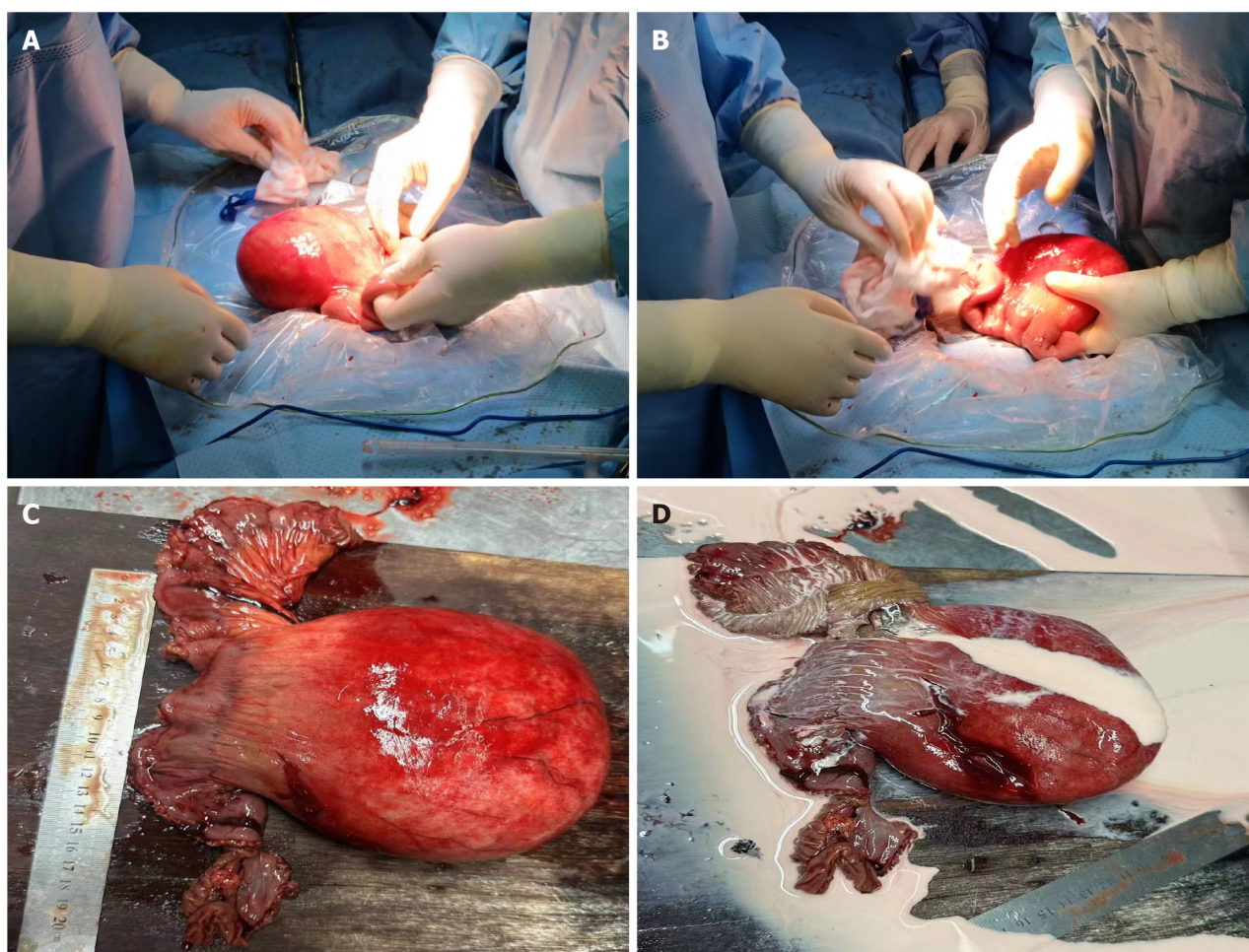
In this case report, the patient was asymptomatic prior to rupture of the cyst but experienced abdominal pain localized around the umbilicus. It is worth noting that abdominal pain can be associated with various other medical conditions, making it difficult to establish the accurate diagnosis based on symptoms. Moreover, no definitive blood tests are available to confirm the diagnosis. In this particular case, both unenhanced CT and US imaging revealed a large cyst in proximity to the bladder, ovary, and uterus. Unfortunately, the radiologist, sonographer, and gynecologist misdiagnosed the patient's condition as ovarian torsion. Consequently, it became evident that complete surgical excision of the cyst, followed by pathological examination, was necessary to achieve a definitive diagnosis and provide appropriate treatment.

Surgical excision can prevent potential malignant transformation, in addition to complications and recurrences[12]. Vigilance is imperative during the follow-up period to promptly detect any recurrence of mesenteric cystic lymphangioma.





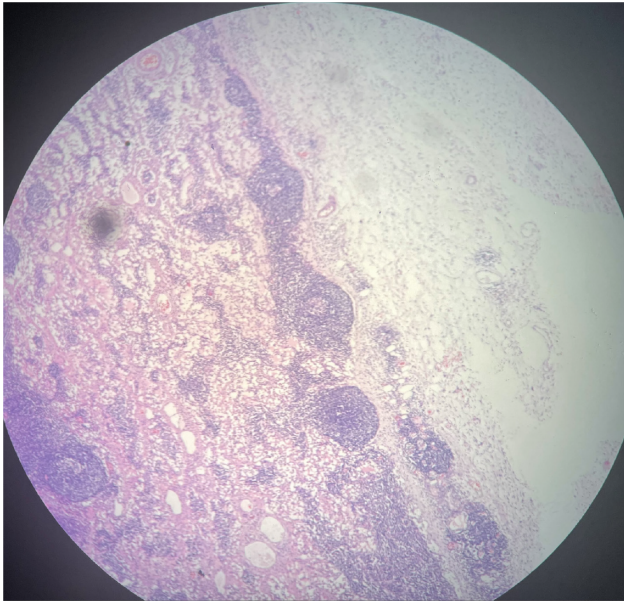
**Figure 1** Imaging examinations before laparotomy. A: Ultrasound image of the patient; B: Abdominopelvic unenhanced computed tomography scan of the patient.



**Figure 2** The patient underwent emergency laparotomy and cystectomy. A: A huge cystic tumor had grown from the jejunum; B: Gastrointestinal surgeons performed a cystectomy; C: The jejunal mesenteric cyst was removed; D: Chylous fluid flowed from the jejunal mesenteric cyst.

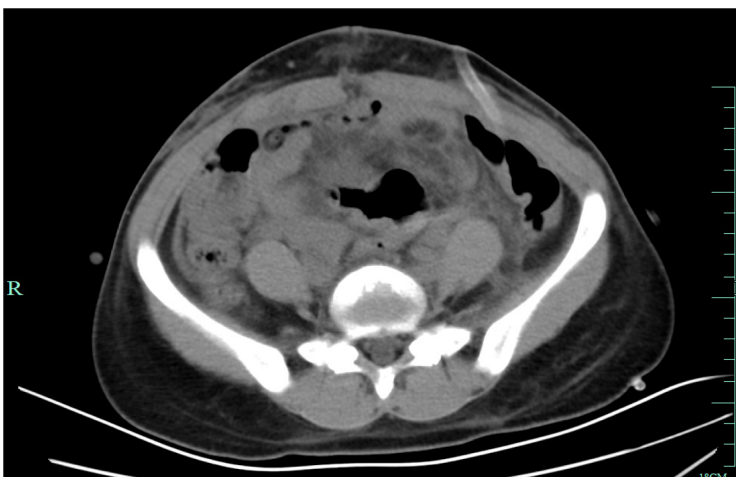
## CONCLUSION

Mesenteric lymphangiomas can cause abdominal pain, and imaging techniques can help determine their characteristics, location, and size. Complete surgical excision and pathological examination are considered the standard treatment and diagnostic method.



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Figure 3 Pathological examination confirmed the diagnosis of cystic lymphangioma of the mesentery.



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Figure 4 Following the cystectomy, CT showed that the patient's postoperative recovery was uneventful.

## FOOTNOTES

**Author contributions:** Xu J and Lv TF conceptualized and designed the case presentation; Xu J performed the data collection, analyzed and interpreted the data, drafted and critically revised the manuscript; All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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