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The Sign of Chilaiditi

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1. Clinical Image

1.1. Commentaries

The sign of Chilaiditi corresponds to an interposition of a part of the colon between the liver and the right diaphragmatic dome. This is rare phenomenon in the population ranging to from 0,025 to 0,28%. The first clinical description dates to back to 1865 by Cantini but its first radiological description was made in 1910 by a Greek radiologist Demetrius Chilaiditi, which gave it its name [1].

Chest X Ray and abdominal computed tomography are diagnostic tools. The right half diaphragm is raised above the liver, the colon is distended from the air, and the upper margin of the liver is below the left half—diaphragm (Figure 1). On CT scan the sign is typical [2-3]. We speak of syndrome Chilaiditi in case of acute abdominal symptomatology associated. The main differential diagnosis is the pneumoperitoneum. Its cause is unknown. More risk is incriminated such as agenesis of falciform ligament, paralysis diaphragmatic, dolichocolon and cirrhosis. The treatment of this pathology is often conservative.

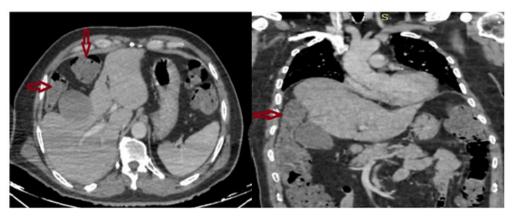


Figure 1: CT scan axial and coronal plans showing the interposition of colon between the liver and the right diaphragmatic: Sign of Chilaiditi

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