

Peritoneal Mice – A Surprise During Laparoscopy

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Peritoneal loose bodies or 'Peritoneal Mice' as they are called, almost never cause any symptoms. Nevertheless these shiny, free-floating bodies in peritoneal cavity often catches the surgeon by surprise. May be because they have not seen one like this before. These may attain the size of a pea or bean or unshelled almond.

Case report

30 years old lady referred to us for diagnostic laparoscopy for infertility on 6th Oct 99. Patient was para one. She had undergone LSCS for the Last childbirth four years back. Other investigations for infertility e.g. husband's semen analysis, hysterosalpingography, ovulation studies were normal. During diagnostic laparoscopy done on 7th Oct 99 uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries were found normal. Few flimsy adhesions were present between posterior surface of uterus and rectum. However three free-floating loose bodies were found in pouch of Douglas, sizes varying from 1.5 to 2.5 cm. These bodies had grayish white, smooth, glistening outer surface (Fig. 1). There was no evidence of attachment to peritoneum. The loose bodies were removed from peritoneal cavity through 11 mm port after dividing each into three pieces. Patient was discharged on 8th Oct 99. Cut section of the specimen had lamellar pattern. Microscopic picture revealed central core of adipose tissue surrounded by hyaline tissue. The findings were consistent with the diagnosis of 'Peritoneal Mice'.



Fig. 1: Showing two Intra-peritoneal loose bodies/ Peritoneal mice in Pouch of Douglas

Most of the loose bodies that are found in the peritoneal cavity are formed by torsion or infarction and detachment of appendices epiploicae; other originate as small subserosal fibroids of uterus that loose their attachment to the later. Nearly always the loose bodies are symptomless, which perhaps accounts for their description as 'Peritoneal Mice'. Microscopically, they consist of a thick capsule of hyalinized fibrous tissue and a central core that may clearly show the pattern of adipose or myomatous tissue.