IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

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Mechanical Small-Bowel Obstruction





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Aarhus University Hospital Aarhus, Denmark 57-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS ADMITTED TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT with sudden-onset upper abdominal pain and vomiting. The patient's medical history was notable for type 1 diabetes and laparoscopic tubal sterilization. Computed tomography (CT) revealed small-bowel volvulus with dilated small bowel rotated around its blood supply (Panels A and B). There were no signs of free air or fluid and no indication of bowel ischemia on the CT scan. Explorative laparotomy revealed signs of strangulation of the small bowel 1 m from the ligament of Treitz. The bowel was viable, and no resection was performed. The patient was discharged in good condition 3 days later.

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