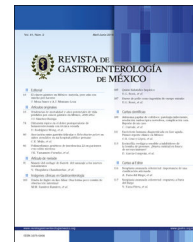




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CLINICAL IMAGE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY

Alpha-glucosidase inhibitor-induced portal venous gas: Not always an indication for surgery[☆]

Gas en vena porta inducido por inhibidor de alfa glucosidasa: no siempre es indicación para cirugía

H. Ito^{*}

División de Medicina Hospitalaria, Universidad de Tsukuba, Hospital Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan

An 81-year-old man with a history of type 2 diabetes mellitus was admitted to our hospital because of abdominal bloating. He had started taking voglibose six days earlier. Physical examination showed abdominal distension, but no abdominal tenderness. Contrast-enhanced abdominal computed tomography revealed an expanded intestinal tract and portal emphysema (Fig. 1). Voglibose was suspended, and the patient underwent emergency laparotomy for suspected non-occlusive mesenteric ischemia. However, there were no signs of intestinal necrosis or perforation (Fig. 2). Bowel decompression was then performed. Computed tomography was carried out on the seventh day of hospitalization, showing no portal emphysema (Fig. 3), and oral diet was started on day 10. The patient's clinical course was uneventful, and he was transferred to a long-term care hospital on day 24. Portal venous gas has been known to be a rare complication in patients taking alpha-glucosidase inhibitors (α -GIs) and could result from pneumatosis cystoides intestinalis, rather than intestinal ischemia.^{1,2} It can be managed con-



Figure 1 Contrast-enhanced abdominal computed tomography scan, showing the expanded intestinal tract and portal emphysema (arrow).

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^{*} Corresponding author at: División de Medicina Hospitalaria, Hospital de la Universidad de Tsukuba 2-1-1 Amakubo, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8576, Japan. Tel.: +8 1-29-853-3900.

E-mail address: itohirokan@yahoo.co.jp

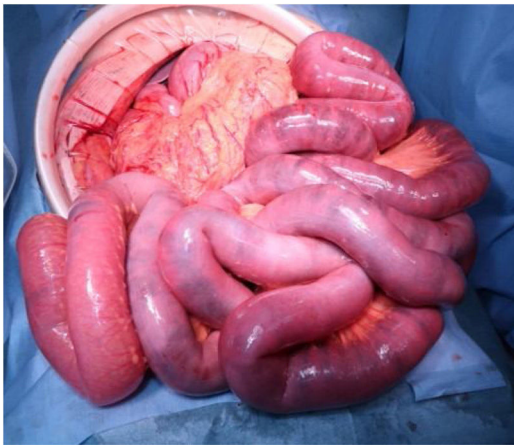


Figure 2 Emergency laparotomy revealed no signs of intestinal necrosis or perforation.



Figure 3 Contrast-enhanced computed tomography scan taken on the seventh day of hospitalization, showing no portal emphysema.

servatively, and unnecessary surgical treatment should be avoided.

Ethical considerations

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this article. Because the present work is a case report, no authorization by the institution's ethics committee was required.

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Conflict of interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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