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Case Report

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Adnexal cyst masquerading as a distended urinary bladder

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Description

A 45 year old female with Diabetes presented with bloating, abdominal distension and urinary urgency for past 3 months. On examination, there was suprapubic tenderness with a large palpable mass in the location of the urinary bladder that was seen extending to the umbilicus. A provisional diagnosis of urinary retention was made for which a foley catheter was inserted. Approximately 200 ml of urine output was collected. On reassessment, the abdominal mass remained unchanged therefore; patient underwent a CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis with contrast. The CT was reported as having a large adnexal cyst seen pushing the bowel superiorly and the bladder inferiorly with dimensions 29.2 x 23.6 cm corresponding to volume of 2800 cc (Figure 1A,B).

Patient underwent an exploratory laparotomy during which a left adnexal cyst was removed which was later confirmed to be a benign serous cystadenoma on biopsy. Serous cystadenomas are known to present in many sizes and can span from 1 to 30 cm [1]. Because of their large size, they can displace other internal organs resulting in nausea, vomiting, abdominal distention and increased urinary frequency [2]. Diagnosis is generally made on a pelvis ultrasound. MRIs can be used to study the mass for suspected malignancy [3]. Ultimately, surgical treatment is indicated allowing the physical removal of large serous cystadenomas with biopsy providing a definitive diagnosis.

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