Acute appendicitis in a femoral hernia: a rare presentation of a de Garengeots Hernia.

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Objective:
Appendicitis in a femoral hernia is unusual, also known as a de Garengeots hernia. A delay in the diagnosis, especially in older patients has been linked to poor prognosis including necrotizing fasciitis and even death.

Methods: Case Report
A 48 year old caucasian woman presented in the emergency department with a 24 hour history of groin swelling and cellulitis expanding over the abdomen, without abdominal pain or clinical signs of an ileus.

The physical examination showed a 10x10 cm tender bulge in the groin, with skin inflammation from the umbilicus to the upper part of the leg, including the right labium. The laboratory findings showed elevated infection parameters (C-reactive protein 157g/l, WBC 13x10^9).

The CT scan (Figure 1 and 2) showed an incarcerated femoral hernia with signs of intestinal perforation.

We decided to take the patient to the operating theatre for an exploratory laparotomy.

After repositioning of the femoral hernia, we had unexpected intraoperative findings: within the hernia sac there was an abscess which contained a perforated necrotic appendix with a part of the cecum.

We performed an appendectomy and partial cecum resection, resection of the hernia sac and drainage of the abscess.

Because of the abscess, we decided to do a primary repair of the femoral hernia with non-absorbable sutures without mesh. Histological examination confirmed acute perforated appendicitis.

The patient made a good recovery and was discharged home on the 7th day after the surgery.

Conclusion:
The de Garengeot hernia is an unusual femoral hernia which contains the appendix. It was first described 1731 by Rene Jacques Croissant de Garengeot. It is an incidental finding in 0.9% of the femoral hernia repairs: an appendicitis within a femoral hernia has an incidence of 0.08 - 0.13%.

Although the de Garengeot’s hernia is a rare presentation of a femoral hernia, the surgeon has to keep this possibility in mind in cases with swelling in the right groin and regional symptoms of inflammation.