

Commentary of N.V. Zavada on a published article

Article: Golbraikh V.A., Maskin S.S., Matyukhin V.V., Arutyunyan A.G. Spontaneous pneumoperitoneum in a patient without hollow organ perforation and peritonitis. Journal them. Russian Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine. 2021;10(1):224–228. [https://doi.org/ 10.23934/2223-9022-2021-10-1-224-228](https://doi.org/10.23934/2223-9022-2021-10-1-224-228).

The conclusions of the article are controversial. We believe that surgeons should not be advised not to perform laparotomy or laparoscopy in the presence of gas in the abdominal cavity in order to exclude perforation of the hollow organ. Evaluation of some clinical data when examining the abdomen is often subjective. In addition, the results of clinical diagnostics of "acute abdomen" are influenced by the severity of concomitant pathology, the level of consciousness of the patient, his body weight, the presence of alcohol or drug intoxication, severe concomitant trauma and other conditions.

Vascular-enhanced computed tomography is not available for emergency use in all hospitals. At the same time, an efficiency of CT diagnostics of "acute abdomen" does not reach 100%. According to a number of authors it ranges from 81 to 97% for various acute surgical diseases of the abdomen,

The use by practical surgeons everywhere of the surgical tactics described in the article can lead to delayed surgical interventions and deaths during its implementation.

According to the literature, spontaneous idiopathic pneumoperitoneum was established, as a rule, during surgery. Based on the results of our many years of experience in emergency surgery, all patients with this rare pathology were operated on. The wording in the conclusions of the article "unnecessary surgical intervention" is not appropriate here. Such a view of diagnostic laparotomy and laparoscopy can lead, which is not permissible, to unreasonable litigation in order to compensate for material damage and "harm caused to the personality of a citizen ..." (Article 1064 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation) when patients or their relatives apply to the courts.

A single observation by the authors is not a basis for revising and making changes to traditional surgical tactics when gas is detected in the free abdominal cavity during an X-ray examination when patients are admitted to surgical departments of hospitals. Taking into account the peculiarities of the description of this clinical case, it cannot be excluded that the patient had a covered perforation of a hollow organ, which was not diagnosed and was treated conservatively with a high risk for the patient.

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