

THE SYNDROME OF THE INFERIOR VENA CAVA: A CASE REPORT

Bojan Mladenović^{1,2}, Nikola Mladenović³, Vesna Brzački^{1,2}

¹University of Niš, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Niš, Serbia

²University Clinical Center Niš Clinic of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Niš, Serbia

³Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases of Vojvodina, Sremska Kamenica, Serbia

Contact: Bojan Mladenović
81 Dr Zoran Djindjić Blvd., 18000 Niš, Serbia
E-mail: bojan.mladenovic@medfak.ni.ac.rs

The inferior vena cava (IVC) collects blood from the abdomen and lower extremities, climbs the retroperitoneum and enters into the right atrium of the heart. Obstruction of IVC can be caused by venous thrombosis, a neoplasm that exerts external pressure on a vein or infiltrates the vein and by pregnancy. Obstruction of the IVC causes edema of the lower extremities, dilatation of the veins of the lower part of the abdomen which serve as collaterals. In the diagnosis of these disorders, it is necessary to perform detailed laboratory tests, ultrasound of the abdomen, computerized tomography, and finally cavography. In this way, the etiology of the obstruction is determined, the place and degree of obstruction, collateral circulation is detected and eventual surgical reconstruction is planned.

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