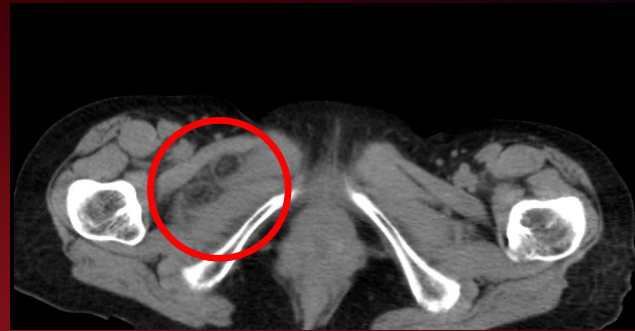


The Scope of Pelvic Hernias: Taking a laparoscopic approach to obturator hernias and repair of incidental synchronous hernias

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Introduction:

Obturator hernias are a rare type of pelvic hernias that account for less than 1.5% of all hernias encountered. With the classic exam finding of the Howship-Rhomberg sign in which pain in the medial thigh is elicited with medial rotation. However, due to the rarity of these hernias, there is no consensus on the best way to diagnose and repair obturator hernias.



Case Presentation:

70-year-old female who complained of acute onset sharp, right groin pain with radiation down the leg. On CT scan, she was found to have an incarcerated right obturator hernia containing fat. The patient was taken to the operating room for laparoscopic exploration and repair of the obturator hernia in which concomitant bilateral femoral hernias were also discovered. Laparoscopic bilateral inguinal hernia and obturator hernia were repaired with mesh.



Discussion:

Due to the rarity of obturator hernias, they tend to be challenging to diagnose based on clinical presentation. The diagnosis should be considered apart of the differential diagnoses when patients complain of groin pain. While there is no consensus on how the repair is best done. Laparoscopic repair increases the detection of synchronous inguinal hernias that can be repair in the same operation.

