

A Necrotising Skin Infection

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1. Keywords: Necrotizing; Necrotizing fasciitis; Necrotizing fasciitis treatment

2. Clinical Image

A 47-year-old man presented to our emergency department with a necrotizing fasciitis of the right groin, genitalia and anterior abdominal wall.

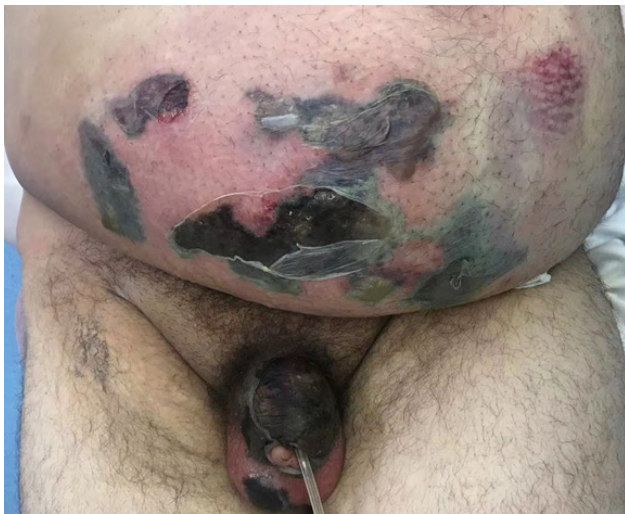


Figure 1: Soft-tissue edema, erythema (black arrowhead), skin bullae (black arrowhead) and necrosis (white arrow) involving genitalia, right groin and anterior abdominal wall.

He was morbidly obese, had poorly controlled diabetes and was in septic shock. He had soft-tissue edema, erythema, tenderness, and skin bullae and necrosis involving his genitalia, right groin and anterior abdominal wall (Figure 1).

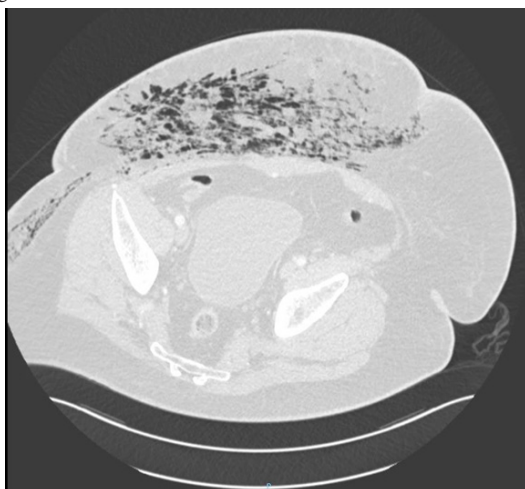


Figure 2: CT scan showing subcutaneous emphysema (black arrow), fat stranding and edema of the right side of the right anterolateral abdominal wall.

A CT scan showed diffuse subcutaneous emphysema, fat stranding and edema of the right side of the scrotal sac, the right inguinal region and the right anterolateral abdominal wall, consistent with necrotizing soft tissue infection (Figure 2). Extensive debridement of necrotic skin, subcutaneous fat and abdominal wall fascia was performed. Culture of infected tissue grew *Streptococcus anginosus* and later, *Candida glabrata*. He received organ support in the intensive care unit for 10 days before transfer to the ward and subsequently transfer to his country of origin for further rehabilitation.

Necrotising fasciitis is an invasive infection that results in widespread tissue destruction, which may extend from the skin to the deep musculature. Predicted mortality rates for necrotising fasciitis range from 30-70%. Successful treatment requires an immediate diagnosis and prompt surgery to remove all dead tissue and the earlier surgery is performed, the better the outcome.



Figure 3: Appearance after extensive debridement of necrotic skin, subcutaneous fat and abdominal wall fascia.

These images are a vivid display of the cardinal diagnostic features. We hope that they will contribute to the early diagnosis and treatment of others (Figure 3).