

## A man with abdominal bloating : Chilaiditi's syndrome

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### To the Editor

An 85-year-old man with abdominal pain reported a feeling of bloating since several days. He was referred to the Emergency Department by the general practitioner with complaints of nausea with vomiting and epigastric

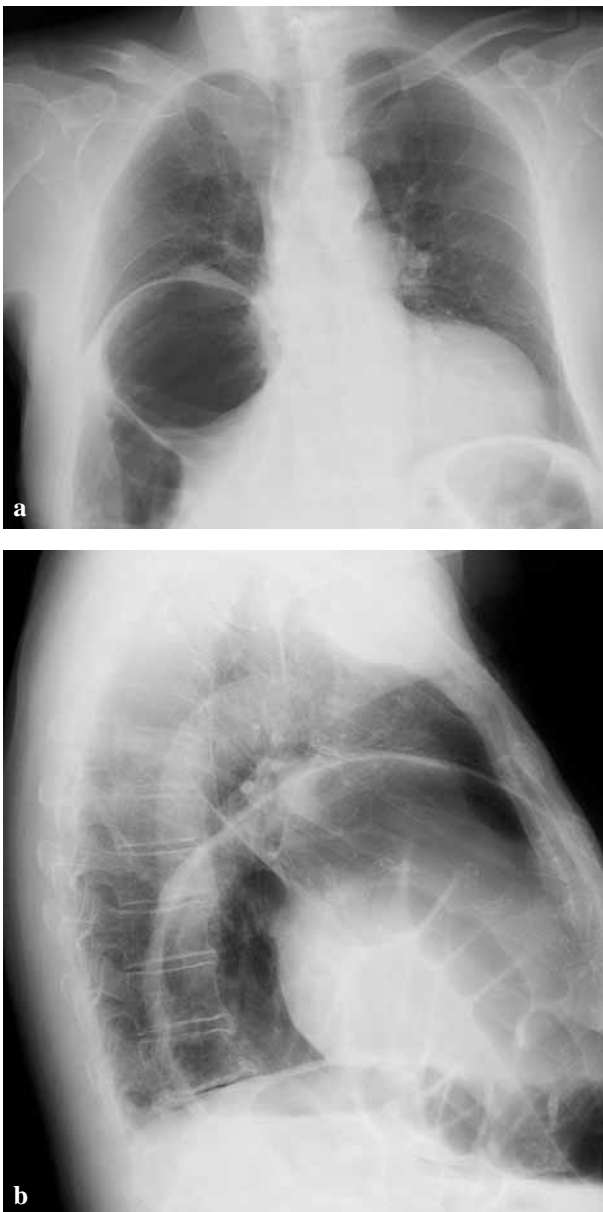


Fig. 1a & b. — Chest film : severe hepatodiaphragmatic interposition of the colon.

discomfort. His history reports hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and surgery for an inguinal hernia on the left side.

On clinical examination the abdomen was distended with dullness to percussion over the right hypochonder. Biochemical investigation revealed a hyponatremia of 122 mmol/L (ref. 136-145 mmol/L). A chest film (Fig. 1a & b) showed a severe hepatodiaphragmatic interposition of the colon, known as *Chilaiditi's syndrome*, as described by Demetrius Chilaiditi in 1911 (1). This was confirmed by CT-scanning (Fig. 2). Symptoms of this syndrome can range from abdominal pain with dyspepsia to acute intestinal obstruction. The radiographic entity as found in asymptomatic patients is known as *Chilaiditi's sign*. The major predisposing factors are colonic elongation and laxity of colonic and hepatic suspensory ligaments (2). An enlarged lower thoracic outlet as seen with emphysema (3) and the amount of fat (4) between liver and colon can also contribute to the development of this syndrome.

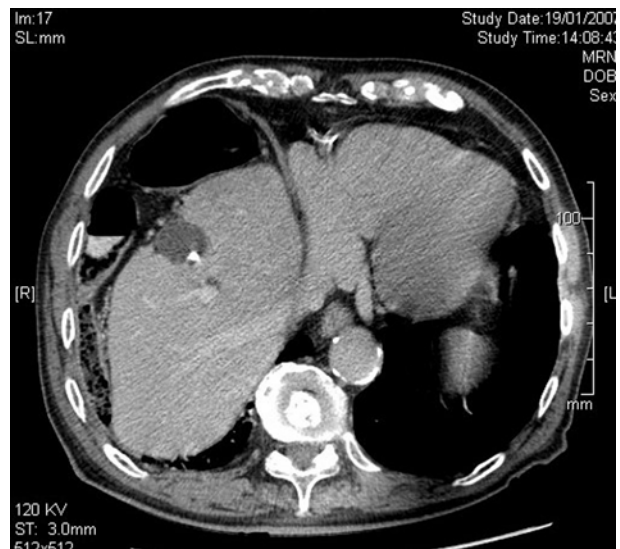


Fig. 2. — CT-scan with interposition of the colon between right liver lobe and diaphragm.

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After laxativa were started, the complaints ameliorated and the interposition of the colon became less pronounced.

## References

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