

## Rectal cancer as a rare cause of Fournier's gangrene

Michał Kisielewski<sup>1</sup>, Anna Mydłowska<sup>2</sup>, Michał Nowakowski<sup>3</sup>

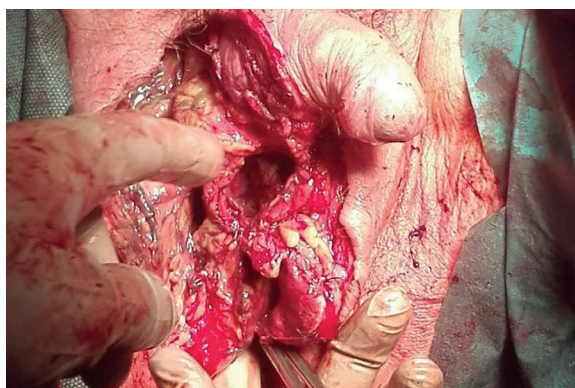
<sup>1</sup>Chair of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University, Krakow, Poland

<sup>2</sup>Department of Surgery, University of Alabama, Birmingham, United States

<sup>3</sup>II Department of General Surgery, Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland



**Figure 1.** Fournier's gangrene prior to surgery



**Figure 2.** View after surgical debridement

Fournier's gangrene (FG) is a rapidly progressive infection due to invasion of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria. Patient presents with septic shock [1]. Fournier's gangrene in a rectal cancer setting is very rare [2]. We report a patient with severe FG as a first presentation of locally advanced rectal cancer. An 86-year-old man was brought to the emergency room due to discolouration of the scrotal region and a decrease in mental status. At admission the patient there was necrotic swelling with black discolouration of the scrotum and perianal region (fig. 1) with subcutaneous emphysema. *Per rectum* examination revealed multiple anterior fistulas with a bleeding mass noted right above the margin of the anus. The patient was qualified for emergency surgery. Surgery revealed a pelvic mass without signs of metastatic disease to the peritoneum. A diverting sigmoid colostomy was created. Urological intervention consisted of bilateral orchiectomy with extensive debridement of the

scrotum and perianal region (fig. 2). A suprapubic cystostomy was also created. Patient was discharged home with a colostomy bag in a good general state after a total hospital stay of 27 days. The histopathological report revealed infiltrative adenocarcinoma G2 with angioinvasion. Scrotal and testicular specimen revealed necrosis of the scrotum and oedema and fibro-pustular infiltration of the testes.

### References

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