

Rectal cancer as a rare cause of Fournier's gangrene

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Figure 1. Fournier's gangrene prior to surgery

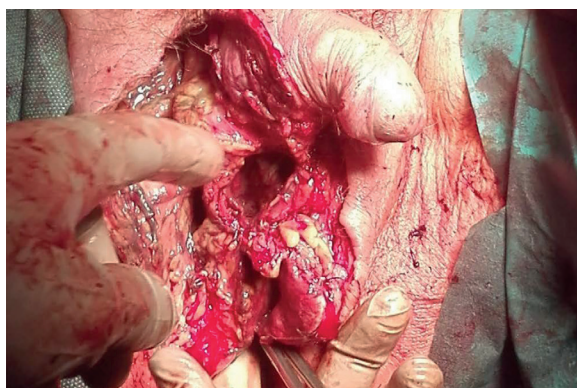


Figure 2. View after surgical debridement

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 discoloration of the scrotal region and a decrease in mental status. At admission the patient there was necrotic swelling with black discoloration 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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