|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Research in Surgery**](https://journalajrs.com/index.php/AJRS) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJRS\_138695** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Small Bowel Obstruction Secondary to Chronic Pelvic Fistula: A Case Report** |
| Type of the Article | **Case report** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | This case highlights a rare etiology of small bowel obstruction in a patient without previous abdominal surgery. It reminds clinicians to consider chronic pelvic infections, including untreated anorectal fistulas, as a potential cause of adhesive obstruction. However, the manuscript would benefit from a more thorough discussion of the pathophysiological mechanisms and the prior management of the pelvic collection. The educational value is modest but relevant for surgeons dealing with diagnostic uncertainty in SBO. | This case highlights an uncommon but clinically relevant etiology of small bowel obstruction (SBO) in a patient without prior abdominal surgery. It emphasizes the need to consider chronic pelvic infections and fistulas as potential causes of adhesive SBO, especially in the absence of classical risk factors. We have enhanced the manuscript by elaborating on the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying the inflammatory adhesion and by clarifying the diagnostic challenges associated with such presentations. This report is of particular interest to surgeons and gastroenterologists dealing with atypical causes of intestinal obstruction. |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | The title is appropriate and informative. |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | The abstract provides a clear summary of the case, but it would be improved by briefly mentioning the patient's previous pelvic collection and lack of surgical history more explicitly to strengthen the clinical context. | We have revised the abstract to explicitly mention the patient's lack of surgical history and to include the prior treatment of the intervesico-rectal collection. This addition strengthens the clinical relevance and context of the case. |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | The manuscript is mostly scientifically correct. However, it lacks detail on the initial management of the intervesico-rectal collection two months before presentation. Was it drained? Treated with antibiotics only? These data are crucial to understand the evolution of the condition. Furthermore, a brief differential diagnosis for closed-loop SBO without prior surgery would be valuable. | We agree with the reviewer’s observation and have added details on the initial management of the pelvic abscess: the patient received broad-spectrum intravenous antibiotics and percutaneous drainage two months prior to admission. In addition, we have inserted a short paragraph discussing differential diagnoses for closed-loop SBO in patients without surgical history (e.g., internal hernia, congenital bands, early-stage Crohn’s disease, neoplasm, and spontaneous adhesions). |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | References are overall appropriate, although some are dated (e.g., Ellis 1997). Consider including more recent literature on spontaneous adhesions or pelvic sepsis as causes of SBO, if available. | While we retained most of the original references for consistency, we acknowledge that some are older. However, we have also included more recent and comprehensive references (e.g., Beck et al., *The ASCRS Textbook of Colon and Rectal Surgery*, 2016) to support the discussion on spontaneous adhesions. |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | Language is generally adequate for scholarly communication, though minor editing for clarity and fluency is suggested (e.g., the phrase "he was previously treated medically" could be clarified). | We reviewed and edited the manuscript for improved clarity and fluency. For example, the phrase “he was previously treated medically” was expanded to specify the therapeutic modalities. |
| Optional/General comments | The rarity of the case is its main strength, but the lack of detailed longitudinal information (especially regarding prior infection management) and the limited depth of the discussion reduce its overall impact. Clarifying the chronicity and previous interventions for the pelvic infection would significantly strengthen the manuscript.  The manuscript presents a clinically uncommon but not unprecedented cause of small bowel obstruction in a patient without prior abdominal surgery. The main shortcomings are the lack of detailed information regarding the prior management of the pelvic abscess and a relatively superficial discussion. The surgical treatment was standard, and the diagnostic process did not involve particularly complex decision-making. The paper may be reconsidered after major revisions that address these gaps and expand the discussion. | We thank the reviewer for these constructive remarks. All major issues raised have been addressed. The discussion section was expanded with a detailed paragraph on the immunological and structural processes contributing to inflammatory adhesions, in order to enhance the pathophysiological depth. We believe these changes significantly improve the educational and scientific value of the manuscript. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |