

Traumatic abdominal mass in a young boy

A previously healthy 17-year-old boy presented to the emergency department with a painful, enlarging lateral abdominal mass which appeared after blunt abdominal trauma as a result of falling down the pavement while he was running in the street. Tachycardia and the presence of a tender and firm ecchymotic large mass over the left abdomen and flank

were notable examination findings (*Figure 1*). Abdominopelvic computed tomography with intravenous contrast showed a large heterogeneous density within the left external and internal oblique muscles, and an avulsion of the left anterior superior iliac spine (*Figures 2a* and *b*). Laboratory tests were normal.

Surgical exploration found a massive haematoma caused by rupture of the deep

circumflex iliac artery which was ligated. Traumatic oblique muscle haematoma was diagnosed. A few days later, he was discharged home without any complication.

Most abdominal wall haematomas occur in the rectus sheath, and a haematoma within the oblique muscle is very rare (Linhares et al, 1999). It may have a traumatic or non-traumatic cause. The most common presenting feature is a painful lateral abdominal firm mass, which is associated with other signs of trauma. Surgery is indicated in patients with massive haematomas that fail to respond to conservative management (Shimodaira et al, 2013). **BJHM**

Linhares MM, Lopes Filho GJ, Bruna PC, Ricca AB, Sato NY, Sacalabrini M. Spontaneous hematoma of the rectus abdominis sheath: a review of 177 cases with report of 7 personal cases. *Int Surg.* 1999 Jul-Sep;84(3):251–257.
Shimodaira M, Kitano T, Kibata M, Shirahata K. An oblique muscle hematoma as a rare cause of severe abdominal pain: a case report. *BMC Res Notes.* 2013;6(1):18. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1756-0500-6-18>

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Figure 1. Ecchymotic large mass over the left abdomen with a minimally bleeding abrasion.

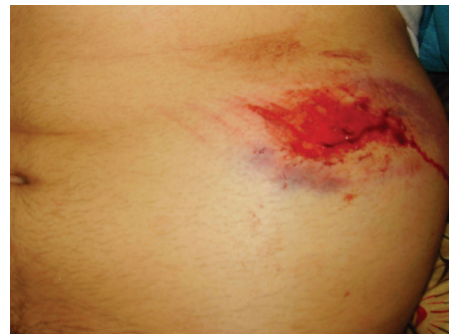
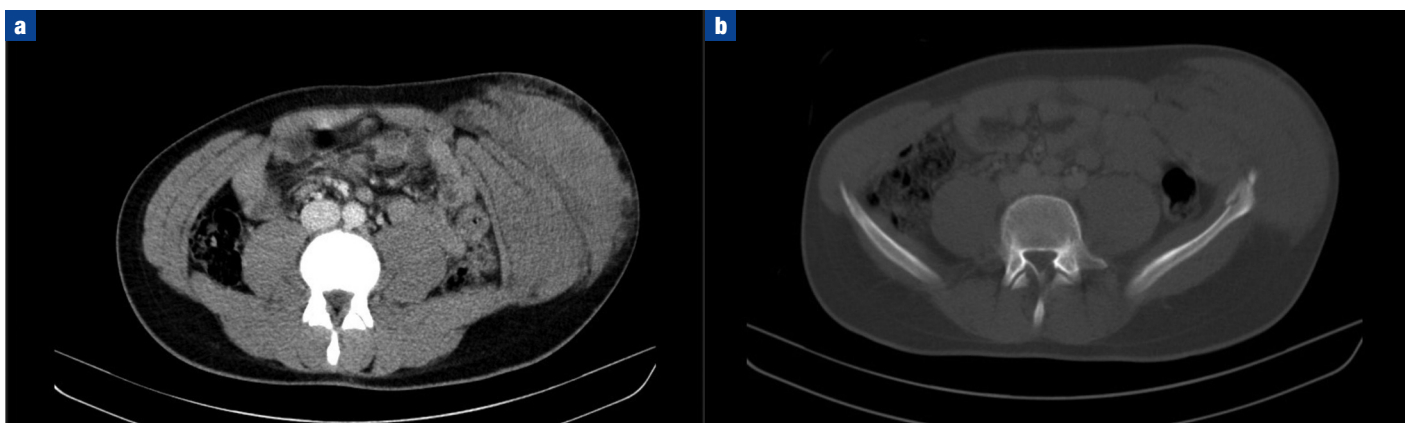


Figure 2. Abdominopelvic computed tomography with intravenous contrast. a. Note the heterogeneous density within the external and internal oblique muscles, compare the right side and the left side for the three muscle layers. **b.** Avulsion of the left anterior superior iliac spine.



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