

Renal obstruction caused by postpartum ovarian vein thrombosis

A 39-year-old woman presented with right flank pain, 5 days post elective caesarean section (having had twins). Investigations revealed an acute kidney injury. A computed tomography scan showed right hydronephrosis and perinephric fat stranding with a dilated and tortuous right ovarian vein, in keeping with right ovarian vein thrombosis (Figures 1 and 2). There was no hydroureter or evidence of extravasation of urine.

A nephrostomy was inserted with recovery of renal function. Subsequently, a nephrostogram (Figure 3) was performed with antegrade stent placement. The stent was removed cystoscopically after several weeks of anticoagulation. Subsequent computed tomography confirmed resolution of the thrombosis.

Puerperal or postpartum ovarian vein thrombosis is rare, occurring in less than 0.05% of live births (Assal et al, 2017). Sequelae can include sepsis and pulmonary embolus (Salomon et al, 2010). Clinicians should consider this as a possible diagnosis in postpartum patients presenting with flank pain, fever and deranged renal function.

Author details

¹Urology Department, Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Swindon, UK

Kathryn Gillams¹

Patrick Jones¹

John Iacovou¹

Amr Hawary¹

Author details can be found at the end of this article

Correspondence to:

Kathryn Gillams;
kgillams@nhs.net

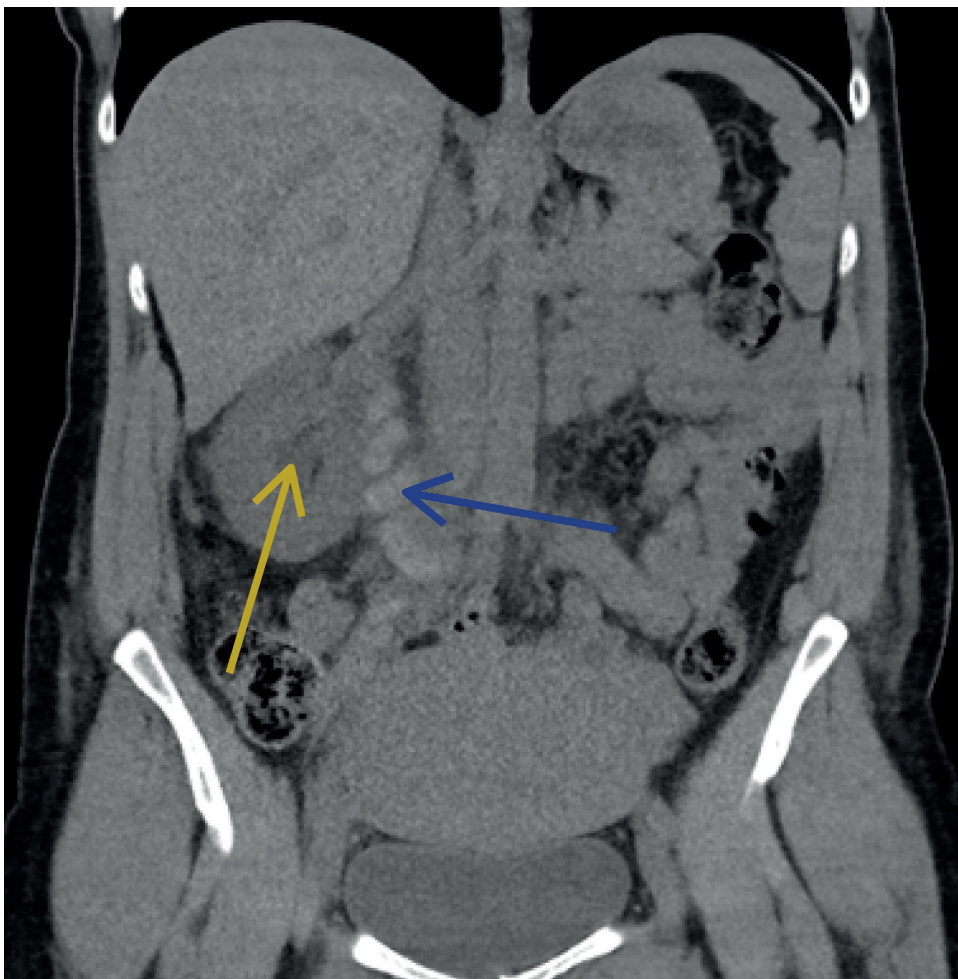


Figure 1. Axial computed tomography image showing dilated renal pelvis (yellow arrow) and thrombosed right ovarian vein (blue arrow).

How to cite this article:

Gillams K, Jones P, Iacovou J, Hawary A. Renal obstruction caused by postpartum ovarian vein thrombosis. *Br J Hosp Med.* 2021. <https://doi.org/10.12968/hmed.2020.0482>

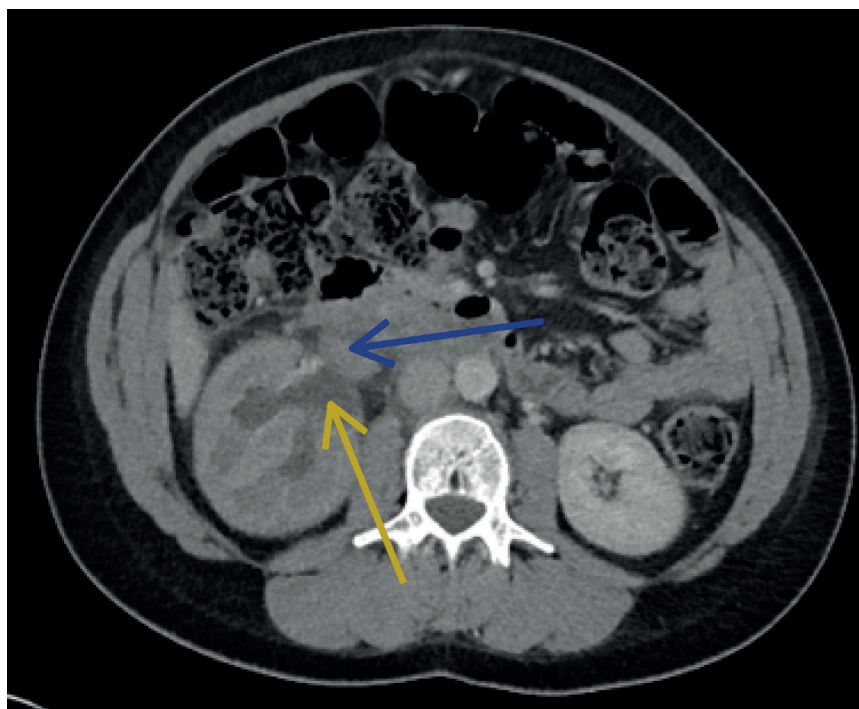


Figure 2. Coronal computed tomography image showing dilated right collecting system (yellow arrow) and tortuous thrombosed right ovarian vein (blue arrow).



Figure 3. Nephrostogram showing dilated right collecting system and normal ureter.

References

- Assal A, Kaner JD, Danda N, Cohen HW, Billett HH. Risk factors and prognosis of ovarian vein thrombosis. *Blood Coagul Fibrinolysis*. 2017;28(6):468–474. <https://doi.org/10.1097/MBC.0000000000000623>
- Salomon O, Dulitzky M, Apter S. New observations in postpartum ovarian vein thrombosis: experience of single center. *Blood Coagul Fibrinolysis*. 2010;21(1):16–19. <https://doi.org/10.1097/MBC.0b013e32832f2ada>