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DIAGNOSIS OF ABDOMINAL TUBERCULOSIS

RLMA MATHEW

The study elucidates the diagnostic procedures used and the results obtained in 126 confirmed patients of abdominal tuberculosis.

Of the 126 patients, 75% had predominantly intestinal disease and the rest had a peritoneal form of tuberculosis. Nearly one third had combined lesions. The commonest symptom for both forms was abdominal pain. Abdominal distension was more common (60%) in those with peritoneal form compared with 32% in patients with intestinal disease. Altered bowel habits had a reverse position i.e. 29% and 45% respectively. Abdominal tenderness, doughy feeling of abdomen, borborygmi, fever, anorexia and weight loss were equally common to both forms.

Of 93 patients with intestinal tuberculosis, 89% had abnormal Barium meal x-ray findings, of whom 60% were confirmed histopathologically or bacteriologically. Of those with peritoneal tuberculosis, 84% were confirmed on tissue biopsy obtained through laparotomy or laparoscopy and another 5% added by bacteriological examination of Ascitic fluid.