Case Reports

Superior Mesenteric Artery Syndrome Following Thoracolumbar Kyphosis: Report of a Case

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The superior mesenteric artery syndrome is a rare complication that occurs after correction of spinal deformity. A 16-year-old male with Scheuermann kyphosis of up to 45 degrees involving the levels from T10 to L3 underwent spine correction operation. However, intermittent, voluminous, and bile-stained vomiting, and nausea developed on the 2nd post operative day, despite normal appetite and bowel sounds. A contrast-enhanced abdominal computed tomography scan confirmed the presence of extrinsic obstruction in the third part of the duodenum caused by the superior mesenteric artery. The patient was managed non-operative measures such as nasogastric tube drainage and total parenteral nutrition. The complication was resolved on the 7th postoperative day and the patient was discharged on the 14th postoperative day. The results and a literature review suggest that early recognition of the clinical signs of obstruction and proper conservative treatment can prove efficient for most cases.

Key words: Superior mesenteric artery (SMA) syndrome, Kyphosis

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Case Report

A 16-year-old male with Scheuermann disease and prominent T10 to L3 kyphosis of up to 45 degrees, presented with back pain and progression of deformity in the past four years (Fig 2A, 2B). On admission his height and weight were 171 cm and 50 kg, respectively. He underwent a posterior corrective surgery which included...