Clinical Image

Title: Whirl Sign

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Figure 1: Abdominal computed tomography of abdomen indicated whirl sign (arrow).

A 54 year-old woman presented with abdominal pain and nausea for one day. She had the surgical history of appendectomy for acute appendicitis. The physical examinations showed abdominal distension and tenderness over epigastric area. The results of laboratory examinations were within normal limits. Abdominal Computed Tomography (CT) disclosed whirl sign which made the diagnosis of volvulus (Figure 1, arrow). Immediate exploratory laparotomy found small bowel volvulus and reduction of volvulus was done. After surgery, the clinical condition improved. "Whirl sign" is the image findings of the mesenteric vessel when the intestine rotates around the mesentery. It has been reported to be associated with midgut volvulus. "Whirl sign" in CT can help diagnosing volvulus and suggest the need of surgical reduction.