Traumatic Ventral Hernia: An Unusual Presentation of Motorcycle Handlebar Injury

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A 45-year-old woman presented to the emergency department after a motorcycle accident. Physical examination reveals a rather large bruise and a bulging mass over right side abdomen with severe tenderness (Figure 1). The bruise was caused by direct contusion by the handlebar of the motorcycle. Hypotension with tachycardia was noted and responded well with fluid resuscitation and blood transfusion. Computed tomography showed herniation of a small bowel segment through a defect between the rectus abdominis muscle and transverse abdominis muscle (Figure 2). Emergent laparotomy was performed to repair the defect.

Traumatic abdominal hernia is an extremely rare type of hernia cause by blunt abdominal injury. The first reported case in literature was presented by Selby in 1906\(^1\). Fewer than 60
cases have been reported since then\(^2\). Traumatic abdominal hernia is induced by direct application of a sudden, tangential, shearing force of moderate intensity that is insufficient to penetrate the skin (inherent elasticity) but able to disrupt deeper tissues of muscle and fascia\(^3,4\). The diagnosis is made based on careful history taking of the trauma mechanism, meticulous physical examination, high index of suspicion and the assistance of computed tomography. Prompt surgical repair of the hernia can prevent incarceration or strangulation.

**References**