

## Percutaneous drainage of abdominal abscesses Drenaje percutaneo de abscesos abdominales.

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Percutaneous drainage has been widely accepted as the preferred treatment for abdominal abscess. Indications have been clarified recently and the absence of a secure route is the only absolute contraindication. We performed this procedure in 65 patients with abdominal abscess at different locations: liver 27, subphrenic 33, lesser cavity 3 and perirenal 3. Overall success rate was 85%, with 89% for liver and 88% for the subphrenic location. Six patients died of multisystemic failure even though the abscess was properly drained. Four patients were operated on for persistent abscess. A pancreatic fistula was shown in 1 and a peritoneal hydatid cyst was the original lesion in the other. Pneumothorax occurred in 5 patients requiring drainage in 2. Two other patients developed hydro-pneumothorax and empyema, that was drained. The overall complication rate was 14%. Thus, percutaneous drainage is a simple and highly successful treatment for abdominal abscess. Results are influenced by the acc