

# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Resident Poster Day

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## Chronic Diverticulitis Complicated by Septic Arthritis and Subcutaneous Emphysema

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Colonic diverticulitis may result in single or multiple fistulae communicating either internally or externally. Abdominopelvic abscesses with internal tracking remain a challenge in the elderly. We report an unusual case of fistulous communication secondary to diverticulitis, with resultant septic arthritis, extension of abscess to proximal femur and dramatic lower extremity subcutaneous emphysema. This is a remarkable case demonstrating the devastating effect of intra-abdominal process resulting in septic arthritis complicated by subcutaneous emphysema and localized subcutaneous abscess. Awareness of such condition is vital to ensure early detection of primary source and appropriate surgical management. Subcutaneous emphysema presents as gas in the fascial planes between the muscles and interstitial tissues, in contrast to gas gangrene where gas lies within the muscles.