The Unbearable Growth of Being
O Insustentável Crescimento do Ser

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A 96-year-old female presented to the emergency department with a two-day history of dyspnea and vomiting. On physical examination, she revealed a globose, distended abdomen with generalized dullness on percussion and a positive fluid wave test. Abdominal ultrasonography and computed tomography demonstrated a septated multicystic tumour with solid areas inside, suggestive of ovarian cystadenocarcinoma, measuring 39 x 23 cm (Fig. 1). Seven years before she was discharged from the Gynaecology consultation after declining surgical intervention for an adnexal cystic formation measuring 25 x 13 cm.

Giant ovarian cysts, defined as tumours exceeding 10 cm in diameter or extending beyond the umbilicus,[1] have become rare in developed countries, due to improved access to healthcare, early diagnosis and therapeutic interventions.[2] When left untreated, ovarian mucinous cystadenomas can grow indolently until they reach massive dimensions and/or exhibit signs of malignant transformation, becoming symptomatic. Imaging studies are crucial for differentiating these lesions from ascites, particularly in postmenopausal women.[3]

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ASC - Conception of the article, acquisition and analysis of data, bibliographical research, writing the article

BTL, SJF, SM - Analysis of data, literature review and revision of the article

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Figure 1: Computed tomography of the abdomen and pelvis (coronal and sagittal sections): giant, septate, multicystic adnexal tumour with solid areas, measuring 39 x 23 cm in diameter.

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