

## PHOTO QUIZ

## Shocking haemolysis

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### Case

A 73-year-old woman presented to the emergency room with upper abdominal pain and fever, which started the day before and worsened overnight. She was nauseous, had vomited several times and had diarrhoea. Her medical history reported a pancreaticoduodenectomy two years earlier because of pancreatic cancer, which was complicated by an anastomotic leakage.

We saw a pale, diaphoretic woman with cold and clammy extremities, tachypnoea, tachycardia and hypotension. Upon closer examination, jaundice and a profound haemoglobinuria was noticed. She had a tender abdomen upon palpation.

Blood was drawn for extensive lab testing, but due to haemolysis only a blood count, arterial gas and lactate level could be measured. The initial haemoglobin was 5.2 mmol/l and the lactate level was 7.2 mmol/l. A CT scan of the thorax and abdomen showed the following image.



**Figure 1.** CT abdomen showing liver necrosis with trapped free air

*What is your diagnosis?*

### Answer

You will find the answer on page 20 in this issue.