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Background: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) or severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), is a highly transmittable virus that has recently emerged in Wuhan, China before rapidly spreading worldwide. Due to the lack of prior immunity, COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a high morbidity and mortality worldwide. The main target were the lungs occasionally manifesting as acute respiratory failure. Multiple organ dysfunction was also reported in reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) positive COVID-19 patients. Despite ongoing research, information is still significantly lacking.

Methods: In this case report, we will discuss a 74-year-old Irish male who tested RT-PCR covid-19 positive on hospital admission requiring a prolonged rocky intensive care unit (ICU) admission for 2 months due to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Whilst in the intensive care unit (ICU), jejunal ischemia was diagnosed both clinically and was confirmed by computerised topography Angiography (CTA). A conservative approach was used in light of the COVID-19 diagnosis, existing comorbidities and ongoing global pandemic. This 74-year-old had a successful recovery and was discharged.

Results: Approximately 3 months later, he presented again to the Accident and emergency department with overwhelming diffuse peritonitis. Emergency laparotomy revealed a perforated jejunum 50 cm from the duodenojejunal flexure. Segmental resection was performed with the formation of a double barrel stoma.

Conclusions: This case report highlights the importance of early recognition of thromboembolic disorders in COVID-19 patients. It also emphasises the crucial role of early operative measures in improving patient’s survival.

Keywords: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); case report; acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS); jejunal ischemia; thromboembolic events

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Footnote

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Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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