

IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE "DEVIL" WITH SCHIZOPHRENICS

40-year-old male with 3 days of rectal pain that is being caused by the "devil" preventing him from sitting. Patient brought to the psychiatric section on arrival with EMS. Patient stated to the doctor that this happened in the past and he has a "scar" there.

Unremarkable exam except for rectal and peri rectal tenderness. CT showed a perirectal abscess that was drained.

DISCUSSION: Psychiatric patients also come with "medical" problems. Some of the stories sound as if the issue is psychiatric but oftentimes that is not the case. We can't afford to downplay their complaints, and, in these cases, it is necessary to exclude the "medical" first. Obviously, we would not have examined the patient in the field with this complaint. However, how EMS personnel gives the report will sway the hospital triage of the patient. So, you can paint the picture of a mental health patient or a medical patient. It's always best to rule out the medical first.