

Primary omental hydatid cyst

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Abstract: Hydatid disease is still a frequently seen disease in endemic area like South America, Middle Asia and South Europe as well as Turkey. Although the disease occurs more frequently in liver and lungs, it can be seen in any part of the body. In this report we present a case of isolated omental hydatid disease which is a rare entity in the English literature.

Keywords: omental hydatid cyst, surgery

Introduction

Hydatid disease essentially occurring in liver and lungs can be seen in any region of the body from brain to inguinal canal.¹ Extrahepatic localization frequently occurs after hepatic involvement. Isolated omental hydatid cyst is a rare entity in English literature.²

Case report

An 11-year-old boy was admitted to the hospital with a history of trauma to his belly and abdominal pain. Physical examination revealed a 10 × 15 cm mass in the midline of the abdomen. Hematological and biochemical tests were normal. Abdominal ultrasonography (US) revealed a 10 × 15 cm pure cystic lesion within the mesentery (Figure 1). Abdominal computerized tomography confirmed the diagnosis of mesenteric cystic mass of 10 × 15 cm being independent of other organs of the abdominal cavity (Figure 2). The family was living in an urban environment and there was no history of being in touch with animals. Preoperative diagnosis was a cystic mass of the mesentery and this indicated a total cyst excision. Not immediately but without delay, exploratory laparotomy was made and a cystic mass of 12 × 15 cm with regular boundaries in the omentum was excised (Figure 3). Exploration revealed no other pathology within the abdomen.

Hydatid cyst of the omentum was our diagnosis after a rapid pathological examination of the mass. Following an uneventful recovery and obtaining blood sample for indirect hemagglutination (IHA) test for *Echinococcus granulosus*, the patient was discharged at the second day postoperatively. IHA was found positive at the concentration of 1/128. The family approved scanning with abdominal USG and IHA tests and the results were normal. The patient was discharged after an uneventful recovery period with treatment of albendazole 10 mg/kg/day for six months. Outpatient follow-up included hemogram, liver function tests, IHA and abdominal sonography at the 3rd, 6th months, including a repeat sonography at the 12th month. All results were in normal ranges.

Discussion

Hydatid disease is an infection caused by the larval form of *Echinococcus granulosus*, mostly affecting liver and lungs, which rarely develops in other organs within the abdominal cavity.³⁻⁵ Cysts may remain asymptomatic for years until causing symptoms due to their space-occupying effect within organs or systemic reactions due to perforation.^{4,6}

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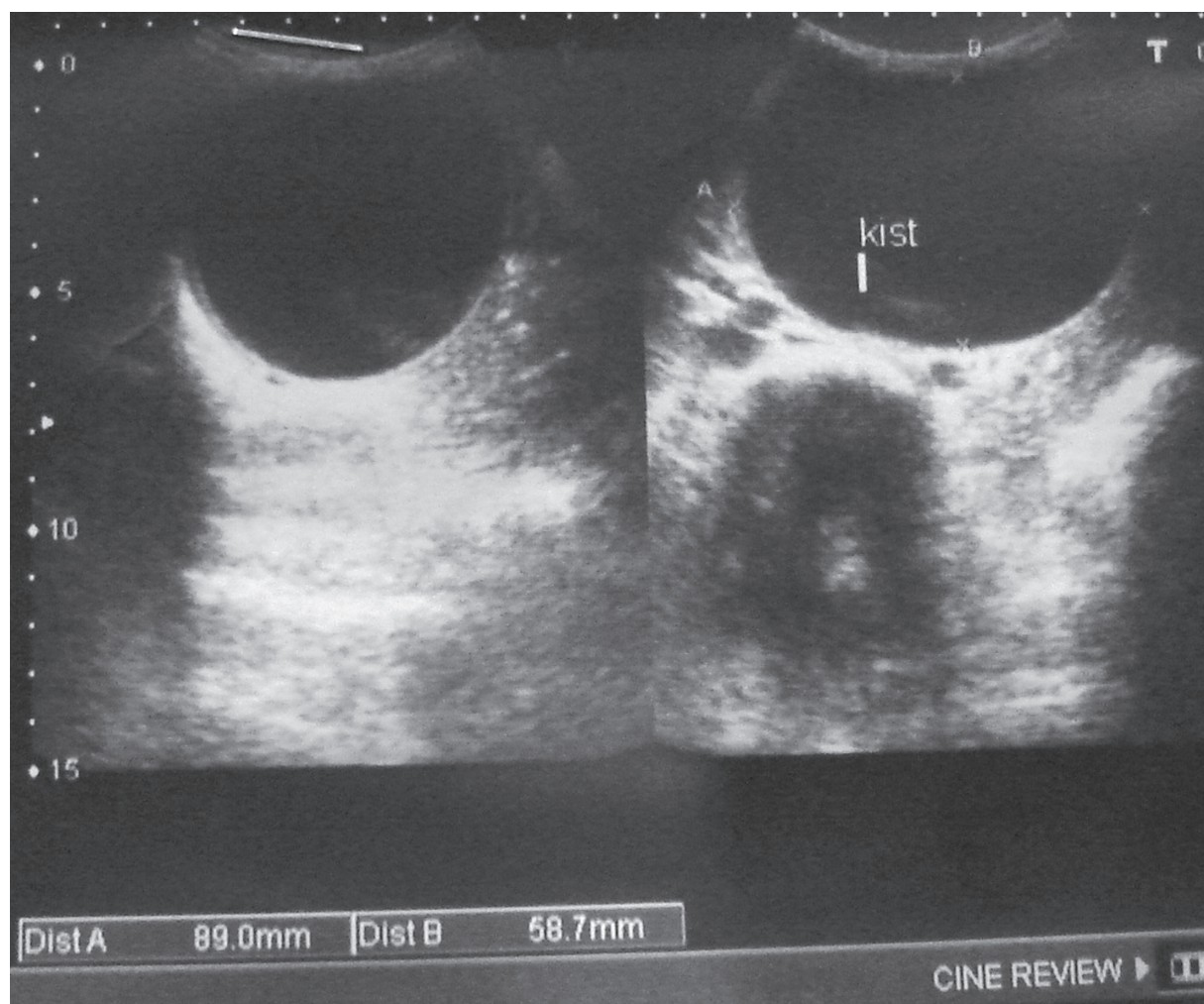


Figure 1 Abdominal ultrasonography image of omental cystic lesion within the mesentery.

Cysts with extrahepatic locations follow a silent course as is the case in our patient in whom diagnosis was made after clinical investigations due to a history of trauma.

For the diagnosis of cysts, the imaging modality of choice is abdominal ultrasonography.⁸ For mesenteric and omental cysts, abdominal CT scanning provides minimal additional information but it can reveal that the cyst is not emerging from another organ such as the kidney, pancreas, or ovary.⁹

Most patients have a single organ involved with a solitary cyst, but extrahepatic involvement is mostly associated with hepatic involvement. Other isolated organ involvement of *E. granulosus* infection are rare in the literature. Rare locations reported as sporadic cases are pancreatic, pelvic, mediastinal, heart, brain spinal cord, eye, testis, bones, urinary bladder, muscle, and skin.^{3,6} There is only one case report of isolated omental hydatid cyst within the English literature.²

The goal of the treatment of omental hydatid cyst is to treat the disease, and avoid recurrence and complications as in other forms.⁷ Surgery, either conservative or radical, is still the treatment of choice for multivesicule and complicated cysts of all locations although percutaneous aspiration has been gaining acceptance as an alternative to surgical therapy in uncomplicated hepatic disease. In either therapy, secondary hydatidosis as a result of spillage of cystic fluid should be avoided. Therefore pre- and postoperative albendazole therapy should be added to the treatment.⁴

For mesenteric cysts and hydatid cysts, laparoscopic surgery can be performed as well.^{10,11} In our treatment we chose open surgery because of the preoperatively unknown nature of the cyst and its relatively big dimensions for an 11-year-old child's abdominal cavity. If we could recognize the lesion as a hydatid cyst preoperatively we would prefer laparoscopic excision, but not percutaneous drainage, due to the danger of uncontrolled spillage.

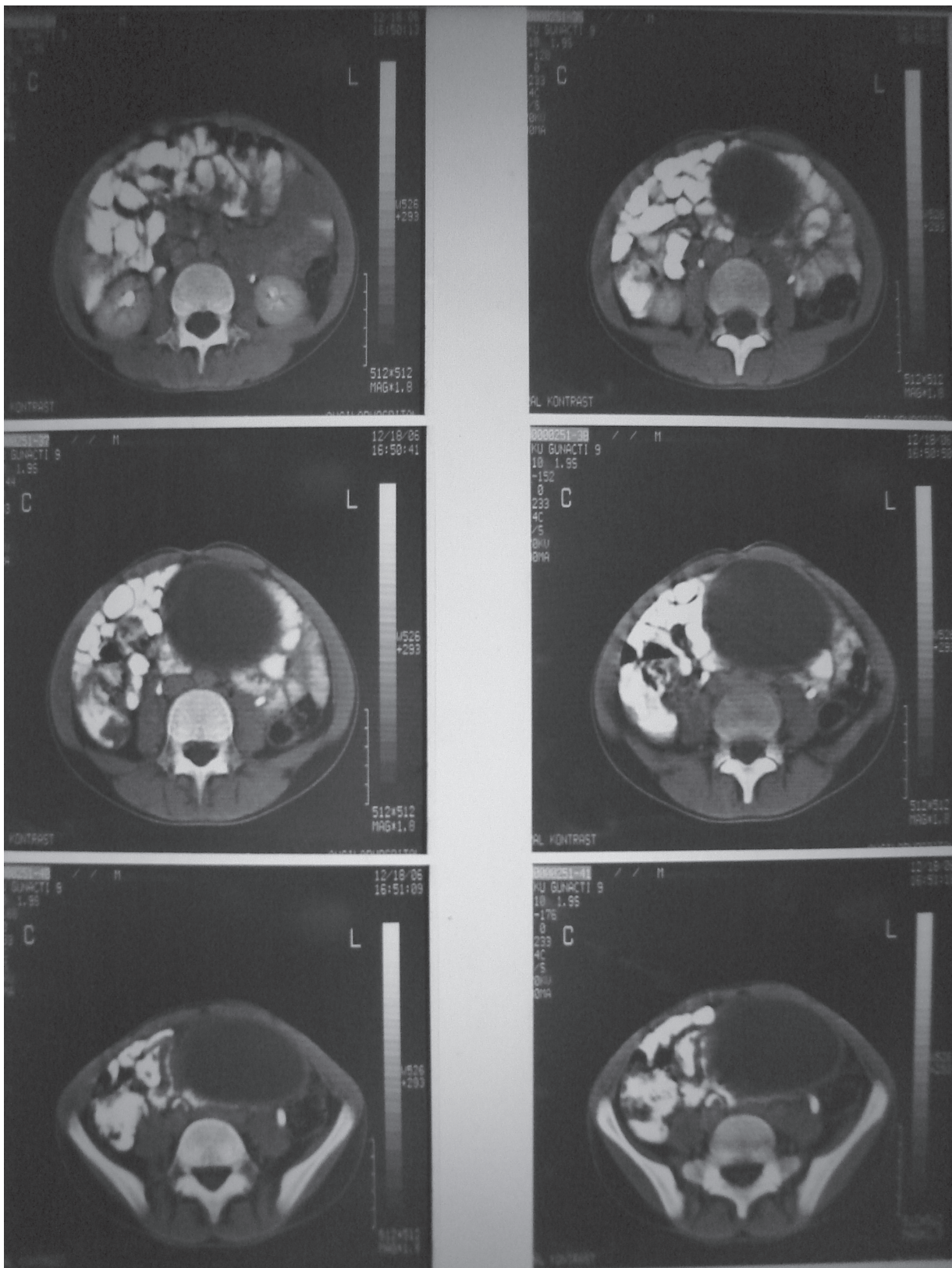


Figure 2 Abdominal computed tomography image of mesenteric cystic mass of 10 × 15 cm.



Figure 3 Cystic mass during laparotomy.

Primary omental hydatid cyst should be kept in mind in the differential diagnosis of omental cysts found incidentally in endemic regions for *E. granulosus* infection. Total excision of the cyst without spillage in the abdominal cavity accompanied by albendazole therapy is the choice of treatment to avoid recurrences.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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