
CASE REPORT

Hydatid Cyst of Liver: A Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Hydatid disease is a parasitic infection by a tape worm of the Genus Echinococcus. It effects human as well as other mammals like; sheep, dogs, rodents and horses. Hydatid cyst is one of the known cause of Liver mass. Investigations and appropriate management provides improved quality of life and substially decrease mortality ratio. We are presenting here a case of Hydatid cyst left lobe of Liver, in which left lobe was converted into a cyst. So complete left lobectomy was done at District Head Quarter Hospital, Bhakkar. A twenty-five year old female, residing in District Bhakkar, presented with intermittent abdominal pain for 2 years. Abdominal sonography showed a multiloculated cystic mass in the left lobe of liver with some punctuate calcifications at the peripheral wall and thickened septa. Under the impression of hepatic hydatid cyst, the patient received left lobectomy. Histological study of the lesion showed a cyst with many daughter cysts lying free in the cyst fluid. Hydatid cyst may be asymptomatic or may lead to lethal complications. Surgery is considered the optimal treatment that has the potential to remove the cyst and leads to complete cure. It is important to make a preoperative diagnosis based on the typical image findings, so that surgeons may take particular precaution not to rupture the lesion as peritoneal spillage may lead to disseminated implantation.

Key words: Hydatid cyst, liver

CASE REPORT

A twenty-five year old female presented with intermitted upper abdominal pain for two years. She is a villager and there was history of weight loss and off/on history of fever. There was no previous hospitalization and surgical interventions. No significant family history could be found. There was history of keeping sheep and Goats at home. On clinical examination patient was a fibrile vital were stable, systematic review was normal.

Abdominal Examination: 4X4 cm mass firm in consistency in Epigastric area moves with respiration slight tenderness in epigastric area. There were no visible pulsation or penstaltic movements on it. USG abdomen CT. Abdomen were both in favour of Hydatid cyst involving left lobe of Liver completely. According to clinical history and image finding Hydatid cyst was suspected. The patient was admitted in surgery department for further treatment.

Physical examination was generally normal. The data of CBC and serum biochemistry was unremarkable. The serological test including the hydatid immunoelectrophoresis, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), latex agglutination and indirect haemagglutination (IHA) test were not

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performed during admission. Her stool was soft and brown and no parasites were found. Abdominal sonography showed a complex cystic lision with solid component in left lobe of liver. Some mobile echogenic foci within the cyst were noticed during posture change of the patient. Patient prepared for Exploratory Laparotomy, fitness for General Anesthesia confirmed. Upper mid line with extension into left hypochondrium Incision made. After breaking omental adhesion whole abdomen covered with Hypertonic sterile soaked sheets (Fig.1).



Fig 1: Calcified cyst in left lobe of liver with normal liver margin

Palciform ligament ligated between clamps. Liver normalized, cyst separated from normal. Remaining small part of left lobe delined. Intact capsule no Intraoperative spillage of its contents. Haemostasis secured, drain placed in subhepatic area. The drains removed after 48 hrs. Post operative recovery was uneventful. Histological study of the lision showed a cyst with many daughter cysts lying free in the cyst fluid. Microscopically the cyst lined by laminated fibrous wall with granulomatous inflammation. There were many tapeworms in daughter cysts. Hydated cyst caused by *Echinococcus granulosus* infection was diagnosed. Patient was discharged ten days after surgery and was normal clinically after removing suture as a preventive measures mebendazole was advised to patient.



Fig 2: Calcified hydatid cyst with part of left lobe of liver after left lobectomy

DISCUSSION

Hydatid cyst is a zoonotic disease that occurs throughout the world particularly in those areas where people are involved in cattle rearing profession². Usually two types of *Echinococcus* infections are *Echinococcus granulosus* and *Echinococcus multicularis*. In human this cyst is caused by the larva of a tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus*³), whereas *Echinococcus multicularis* is not common but more invasive by mimicking a malignancy⁴.

The life cycle of *E. granulosus* alternates between carnivores and herbivores for instance dogs and sheep, whereas man is an accidental intermediate host with ending point in parasite's life cycle. The liberated ova burrow through intestinal mucosa and are carried by the portal vein to the liver, where they develop into adult cysts. Liver is most common site of Hydatid disease and most cysts are located in the right lobe⁴. Some ova pass through capillary sieve and become lodged in any part of the

body. The bloodstream reaches, including the lung, peritoneum, kidney, brain, mediastinum, heart, bone, soft tissues and most of the other body parts^{5,6}.

Some times Hydatid cyst may be remained asymptomatic for years long. Its presence may become evident when the hepatomagely is found or a cystic lesion is noted when the liver is imaged for other reasons. It may be painful or lead to complications such as rupture into biliary tract or peritoneal cavity which may cause cholangitis or anaphylactic shock⁷.

Hydatid cyst can be solitary or multiple in nature. Imaging findings depends upon the stage of cyst growth. Laboratory screening examination in most cases showed normal results. The diagnosis can be confirmed when imaging is combined with serological tests. Here in captioned case serological tests were not available. Calcification is usually curvilinear or ring like and involves the pericyst. It is seen on radiography that, there are 20-30 % cases are of hepatic hydatid cyst. The presence of multiple echogenic foci that fall into the dependent portion of the cyst during posture change of the patient is a characteristic ultrasound finding such as snowstorm sign. On CT scan and MRI the septa and cyst wall frequently enhance after injection of contrast material frequently. A low signal intensity rim that is more evident on T2 weighted images has been described as characteristic of hydatid cyst as opposed to non-parasitic cyst in Liver & Lungs¹. In a few equivocal cases with -ve serological tests an image guided aspiration of the cyst contents for microscopic analysis can help to establish a definitive diagnosis prior to therapy⁸. However spillage of contents should avoided during the procedure.

Here in our case abdominal sonography showed daughter cysts separated by solid components which should be hydatid matrix containing broken cysts, scolices and hydatid sand. The appearance of hydatid matrix in CT be variable depending upon the content that fills the cystic mass and the small cyst here within. There may be so-called 'cyst in cyst' appearance. The deferential diagnosis can be made when there is history of living in endemic regions along with these imaging findings.

The patient with hydatid cyst frequently present a therapeutic challenges. Medical treatment of hydatid cyst with drugs like mebendazole/ albendazole has been reported but medical therapy alone has controversial results⁹. It has been used in the prevention of post-operative local recurrence and sterilization before surgery¹⁰. Percutaneous drainage had been proposed as an alternative to surgery especially for the patients who don't want to undergo surgical procedure¹¹. Surgery is considered as best possible treatment having potential to remove the

cyst and complete cure¹². The main principle of surgical treatment is to eradicate the parasite, prevent intra-operative spillage of contents and obliterate the residual cavity. Recurrence of hydatid cyst may occur either from spillage of hydatid fluid during the surgical procedure or from any re-infestation of the patient¹³.

Hydatid cyst of liver due to *E. granulosus* infection remained challenging clinical problem throughout the world. However it is matter of very importance to kept in mind that; when a cyst lesion is encountered anywhere in the body. Diagnosis can be improved by making familiarity with imaging features, especially for the patients living in countries where this disease is endemic.

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