

Primary peritoneal Hydatidosis: A clinical image

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Background: Primary peritoneal hydatidosis is an extremely rare entity accounting for just 2% of all intra-abdominal hydatid disease. It is caused by tapeworm *Echinococcus*.

Clinical Presentation: A 23-year male presented with progressive abdominal distention and discomfort for last three months. On evaluation, the patient was diagnosed with primary peritoneal hydatidosis. He was put on albendazole and planned for laparotomy.

Discussion: Hydatid disease is endemic to most parts of the developing world and livestock rearing areas in the Mediterranean region, Australia, the Middle East, Turkey, Africa and South America. The definitive hosts are dogs, wolves and foxes, while sheep, pigs, cattle and goats are the

intermediate hosts. In addition, humans become accidental intermediate hosts while consuming vegetables contaminated with the eggs of *Echinococcus* or due to close contact with pets carrying the parasite. The most common sites are the liver and lungs, followed by the spleen, kidney, bones and brain. Patients are usually asymptomatic for years. However, symptoms arise late and are generally due to pressure effects of the cysts on adjacent organs.

Differential diagnosis: It is inclusive of cystic intra-abdominal masses like a pancreatic cyst, mesenteric cyst, gastrointestinal duplication cyst, ovarian cyst, lymphangioma, intra-abdominal abscess, loculated ascites and haematoma.

Ultrasonography and Computed Tomography are the most important diagnostic imaging modalities.

Treatment: Medical management with albendazole/praziquantel either alone or as an adjuvant to surgery is used depending on the size, location and dissemination of cysts. Surgery remains the treatment of choice, especially in larger cysts and hydatidosis. Long-term follow-up is needed to identify and treat recurrence.

Informed consent: Taken

Conflict of interest: None

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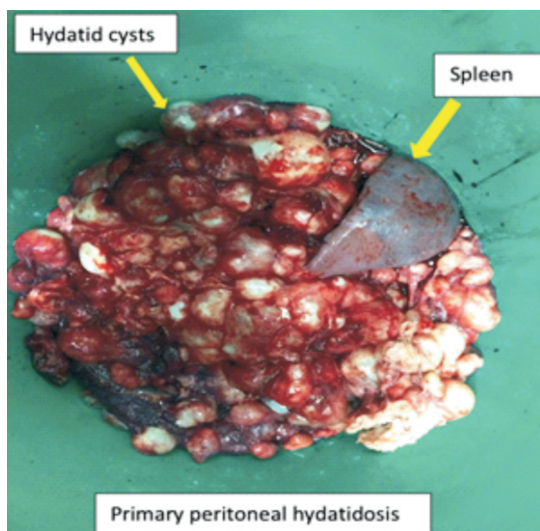


Figure: Postoperative specimen showing primary peritoneal hydatidosis with multiple peritoneal hydatid cysts along with spleen.

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