

Case report

Isolated Primary Intra-uterine Hydatid Cyst – Benghazi, Libya

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ABSTRACT:

Hydatid cysts in the genital tract are rare and the occurrence in the uterus is an extreme rarity. Differentiation between hydatid cyst and malignant disease of the related organ is of great importance. We report a case of hydatid cyst in the uterus.

Keywords: Hydatid cyst, uterus, Libya.

INTRODUCTION:

Hydatidosis is a common zoonotic disease caused by the larval form of *Echinococcus granulosus*. Canines are the definitive host, while affected human beings are the accidental host, especially in poorly developed countries. The most frequently involved organ is liver (75%), followed by the lung (15%) and the remainder of the body (10%) (1). The involvement of the genital tract is rare, appearing with an incidence of 0.5 % (2) and the occurrence in the uterus is an extreme rarity.

CASE REPORT:

A 37-year-old woman was admitted to the gynecologic department in Benghazi Medical Center-Libya, complaining of dragging and low abdominal pain. The ultrasonographic examination revealed a partly cystic intra-uterine mass. When the patient had performed a computed tomography scan of the chest, cranium and abdomen, no evidence of any cyst was noted. The provisional diagnosis was an intra-uterine myoma with cystic degeneration. Myomectomy with excision of the mass was done. The mass was sent to our histopathology lab. Cut section revealed a unilocular grey white cyst of 7 cm diameter filled with opalescent fluid (Fig. 1). Microscopic examination showed scolices of *Echinococcus granulosus* with an adjacent germinative nucleated layer and an outer laminated layer (Fig. 2). The cyst was surrounded by host inflammatory reaction.

DISCUSSION:

The unusual localization of hydatid cyst in the brain, heart, pericardium, kidney, intraperitoneum, retroperitoneum, bone, soft tissue and breast as rare sites has been discussed in the literature (3). The localization of the hydatid cyst in the uterus is an extremely rarely encountered entity and highly interesting (1). The correct diagnosis of hydatidosis is very difficult because of the striking resemblance between the hydatid cyst and malignant disease of the related organ. If the physician lacks the high index of suspicion, the lesion may be misdiagnosed as a pelvic tumor. Therefore, hydatid cysts should be considered in the differential diagnosis of cystic pelvic masses, especially in areas where the disease is endemic.

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Figure 1: Opened unilocular grey white cyst of 7 cm diameter filled with opalescent fluid.

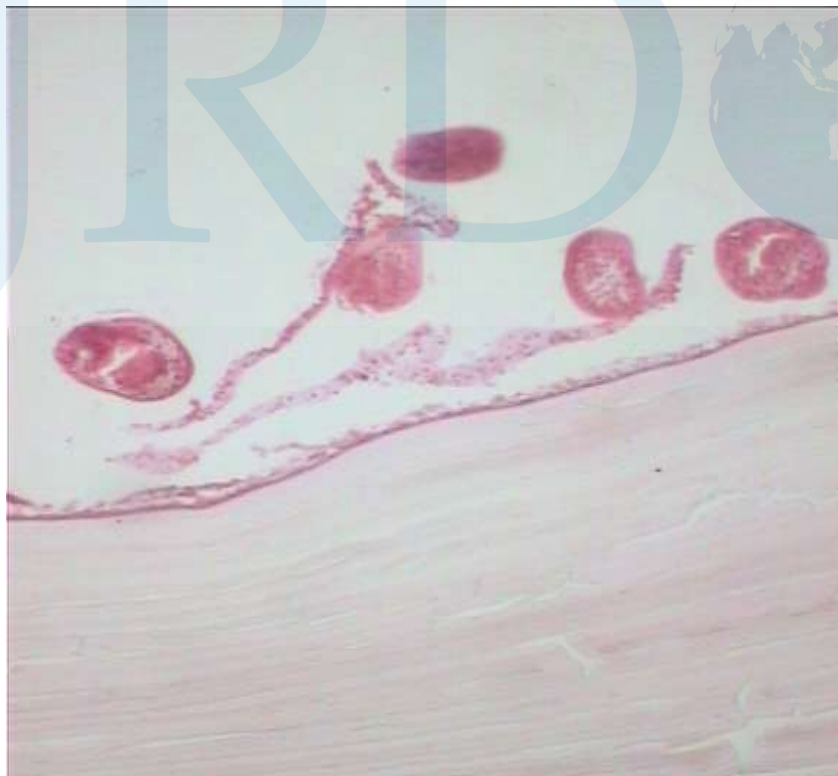


Figure 2 : Scolices of Echinococcus granulosus are seen with an adjacent germinative nucleated layer and an outer laminated layer.