

Adult Cystic Lymphangioma in Posterior Omentum Cavity

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Abstract

A cystic lymphangioma is a non-malignant tumor that arises from the lymphatic vessels, we report the case of a 60-year-old female patient, presenting with chronic abdominal pain, An abdominal computed tomography was performed, revealing a cystic lymphangioma located in the posterior cavity of the omentum.

Keywords: Cystic; Lymphangioma; Imaging; Omentum

Case Report

A cystic lymphangioma is a non-malignant tumor that arises from the lymphatic vessels [1]. The suggested cause is an embryological anomaly, where primary lymphatic cysts do not properly connect with the main lymphatic system [2].

We report the case of a 60-year-old female patient with no significant medical history, presenting with chronic abdominal pain, evolving in the context of afebrile condition, and maintaining general well-being. The clinical examination revealed a mild pain in the epigastric region without a mass syndrome.

An abdominal computed tomography was performed, revealing a hypodense mass of pure liquid density, unilocular, with a thin and regular wall, without septa or vegetations, measuring 51x51x45 mm (APxTxH), located in the posterior cavity of the omentum, respecting adjacent structures (Figure 1).

Over 80% of lymphangiomas are diagnosed in the first year of life, with rare cases in adults. Gender distribution in adulthood is roughly equal [1].

Cystic lymphangiomas (CL) can develop in various anatomical locations, predominantly in the cervical and axial regions. Intra-abdominal cases are rare, comprising less than 5%, and are most commonly located in the mesentery, greater omentum, mesocolon,

and retroperitoneum, with even rarer cases in the posterior cavity of the omentum [1,3].

Cystic lymphangiomas are often asymptomatic, with clinical presentations varying based on size and location. Complications may lead to acute scenarios such as cystic hemorrhage, secondary infections, and obstruction of urinary, biliary tracts, and intestines [3].

Diagnostic imaging involves radiological methods, with ultrasound as the primary screening modality, revealing distinct features. Computed Tomography (CT) scans depict a low-density cyst with a smooth shell, and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) enhances characterization, showcasing low-signal masses in T2-weighted and high-signal masses in T1-weighted sequences [1,2].

Differential diagnoses for cystic lymphangioma include lymphoma, hydatid cysts, ovarian cysts, digestive duplication, mucinous cystadenomas, and mesenteric cysts [1].

The definitive treatment for abdominal cystic lymphangioma is radical excision, even in asymptomatic cases. However, with increasing tumor size, radical resection becomes more challenging, elevating the risk of local recurrence [3].

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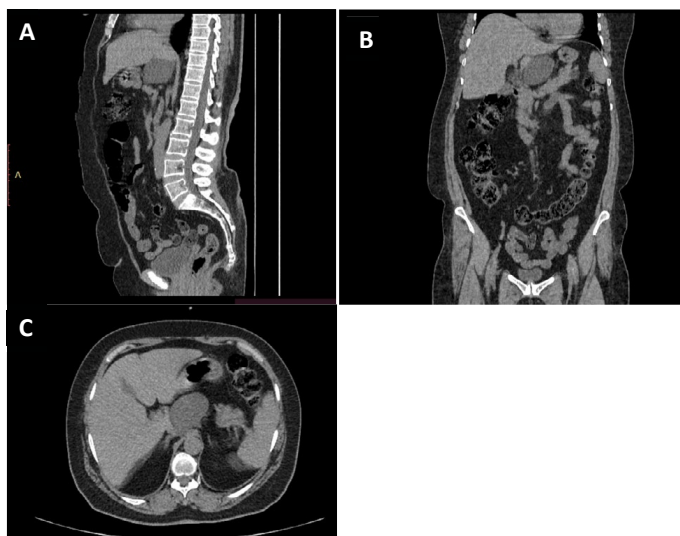


Figure 1: Scannographic images of a cystic lymphangioma in the posterior cavity of the omentum in sagittal (A), coronal (B), and axial (C) sections.

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