Images in...

Isolated pericardial hydatid cyst: anatomical details on 64 slice multidetector CT scanner

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DESCRIPTION

Cardiac involvement is uncommon $(0.02-2\%)^1$ in hydatid disease and the most common location is in the left ventricle, followed by interventricular septum and right ventricle. The clinical presentation of hydatid disease depends on the location of the cysts, and diagnosis is usually made by CT and/or high-resolution MRI.²

We are presenting an extremely rare manifestation of hydatid disease in the pericardial sac. Our patient 78-year-old woman of South-Asian descent presented with non-specific chest pain, and we are presenting the striking diagnostic images of a rare manifestation of hydatid disease obtained through the multiplanar capabilities of 64 slice CT scanner, which demonstrates the anatomical details, calcifications and internal architecture of this rare disease in an uncommon location (figures 1–3).

Abdominal ultrasonographic evaluation revealed no other cystic lesion either in the liver or other abdominal organs.

Multidetector CT scanner has the capability of defining the disease in all planes and with its spatial and temporal resolution can achieve diagnostic information on par with MRI scanning. Multiplanar CT also carries the added advantage of being more sensitive in picking up



Figure 1 Contrast-enhanced axial section shows multilocular smooth-walled cystic lesion with peripheral wall calcification and multiple daughter cysts arising from the pericardium of left ventricular wall: characteristic hydatid cyst.



Figure 2 Contrast-enhanced coronal processed image shows the relation of the cyst with left ventricle and pericardium and mass effect on pulmonary artery. Peripheral wall calcification can be seen.

calcifications and pulmonary pathology (where MRI is not as good as CT).

Learning points

- ► Multidetector CT scanner has the capability of defining the disease in all planes and with its spatial and temporal resolution can achieve diagnostic information on par with MRI scanning.
- Multiplanar CT also carries the added advantage of being more sensitive in picking up calcifications and pulmonary pathology (where MRI is not as good as CT).

Competing interests None.

Patient consent Obtained.

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Figure 3 Contrast-enhanced sagittal processed image shows the antero-posterior relation with mediastinal structures and pericardial origin of left ventricle.

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