CLINICAL IMAGE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY

An uncommon gallbladder location associated with polycystic liver

Una localización poco frecuente de la vesícula biliar asociada con el hígado poliquístico

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The gallbladder is located between segments IV and V of the liver in a bare area, not covered by the visceral peritoneum.

An 81-year-old woman presented with chronic abdominal pain in the epigastrium and right hypochondrium, associated with weight loss and an abdominal tumor. A CT scan revealed a polycystic liver with a massive hepatic cyst in the right lobe (fig. 1).

Surgical exploration identified the gallbladder surrounded by the thick serosal layer of a hepatic cyst (fig. 2).

The atypical location of the gallbladder alerted the surgical team to the possibility of a biliary tract abnormality, which was ruled out after performing an intraoperative cholangiography. Polycystic liver is estimated to occur in approximately 5% of the population. Exaggerated growth of the cysts can cause abdominal pain and distension, dyspepsia, early satiety, dyspnea, and a visible or palpable

Figure 1 Abdominal computed tomography scan showing voluminous hepatic cysts.

Figure 2 Subcapsular position of the gallbladder.

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abdominal tumor. The cysts do not usually reach the biliary or vascular structures, but if that occurs, it can compress the biliary tract and cause jaundice in up to 9% of the patients.

**Ethical responsibilities**

**Protection of persons and animals.** The authors declare that no experiments were performed on humans or animals for this study.

**Data confidentiality.** The authors declare that no patient data appear in this article.

**Right to privacy and informed consent.** The authors declare that no patient data appear in this article.

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**Conflict of interest**

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.