



CLINICAL IMAGE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY

An uncommon gallbladder location associated with polycystic liver[☆]



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

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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.



Figure 1 Abdominal computed tomography scan showing voluminous hepatic cysts.

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

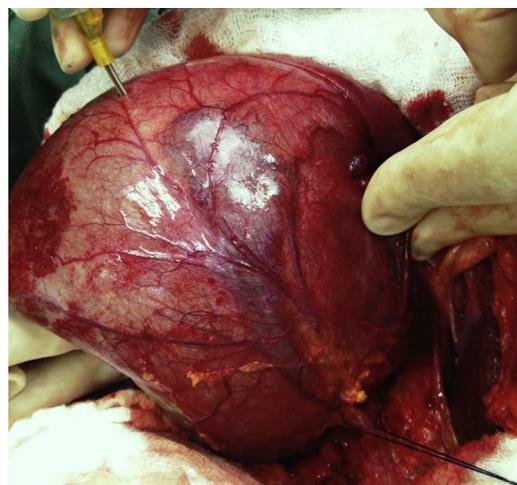


Figure 2 Subcapsular position of the gallbladder.

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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.