

Clinical Image

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The serpent or snake sign in liver hydatid cyst

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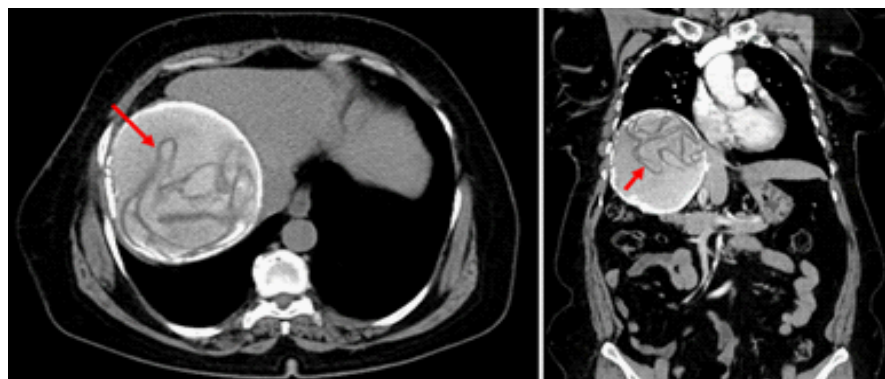


Figure 1: CT-scan axial and coronal view of the liver hydatid cyst with detachment of membrane realizing the serpent sign (red arrow).

Clinical image description

The liver hydatid cyst is becoming a worldwide parasitic disease due to the immigrants from pandemic countries [1]. In some cases, the diagnosis is challenging and debatable and the imaging features are helpful. For this reason, the different radiological specific signs should be well known [2]. As an example, the serpent signs or snake signs is a radiological finding observed in liver hydatid cysts on imaging studies such as ultrasound, Computed Tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging. It refers to the presence of daughter cysts, which are smaller cysts inside the larger cyst, in a serpentine or swirling pattern. This is due to the pressure difference between the

larger cyst and the daughter cysts, causing the latter to move in a circulating manner. The serpent sign is considered a characteristic sign of hydatid disease and can aid in its diagnosis. We presented a CT-scan views of a 65-year-old women, with no particular past medical history, presenting a dysmorphic liver with a calcified cystic lesion at the expense of the right liver (segments V, VI, VII, VIII) with detachment of membrane realizing a serpent or snake sign, measuring 132 x 112 x 125 mm (Figure 1). It presents the following adhesions: supero-internal side with the IVC and the median side with the suprahepatic vein, infero-internal side with the common bile duct, portal vein and inferior vena cava, and in antero-inferior side with the gallbladder.

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