

Clinical Image

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An uncommon encounter: A case report on developmental anomaly of the left lobe of the liver

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Abstract

Developmental anomaly of liver are rare as compared to other abdominal viscera. With the advent of newer modalities of screening and the advancements in diagnosis and treatment, it is necessary that we should have a detailed knowledge of various morphological changes of left lobe of liver.

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Introduction

Normally the liver is divided into right and left lobes. In the initial development, the right and the left lobes are equal in size but due to the growth of neighboring organs on the left side, the left lobe regresses [1]. There can be congenital abnormalities of the liver such as agenesis of its lobe, deformed lobes, lobar atrophy, etc., [2]. Various studies have described extremely long left lobe - flat like a pancake, spatula-like, and lingular [3].

Case presentation

During the dissection of a 55-year-old female cadaver in the Department of Anatomy, AIIMS Raebareli, a large spatular prolongation of the left lobe of the liver was found. The left lobe was reaching the superior pole of the spleen and its width was more than that of the right lobe (Figures 1-4).

Discussion

The diagnosis of an elongated left lobe of the liver is established when the left lobe of the liver exceeds the stomach to the left and/or reaches the superior pole of the spleen on a CT image [4]. Various researchers have shown that this anomaly is associated with gastric volvulus and symptoms of pain, pressure, and pulling in the epigastric region.



Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Figures 1 & 2: Show liver in situ with Spatular prolongation of left lobe and its relation with other organs.



Figures 3 & 4: Show large spatular prolongation of left lobe of liver.

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Conclusion

The presence of the prolonged left lobe of the liver can be misinterpreted as splenic hematoma or tumor. These findings may be of great significance to surgeons and in USG and CT interpretations by radiologists.

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