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Alexandria Lerner

The Pennsylvania State University

Michael Scarlato

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Michael.Scarlato@lvhn.org

Rohit Sharma MD

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Rohit.Sharma@lvhn.org

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Hepatic Mesenchymal Harmartoma: an Unusual Presentation in an Adult

Alexandria Lerner, Research Scholar; Dr. Michael Scarlato, MD; Dr. Rohit Sharma, MD

Department of Surgery, Surgical Oncology

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

INTRODUCTION

- Hepatic mesenchymal harmartoma (HMH) is a rare, benign liver neoplasm⁽¹⁾.
- HMH is predominantly reported in pediatric populations.
- HMH in adults is only described through rare case reports.
- In the English literature, only 16 cases have been reported in adults (> 19 years of age)⁽²⁾.
- In the present report, we describe an adult HMH with an unusual initial differential diagnosis that did not include a liver tumor.

CASE DESCRIPTION

- A 38-year-old female with a large left upper abdominal mass discovered during a work up for hematuria on a CT urogram and was referred to our office.
- She had complaints of early satiety and some right side abdominal pain.
- There were no palpable abdominal masses or tenderness on exam in this otherwise healthy, young adult female.
- Ct scan revealed a large 10 x 8 x 7.6 cm complex, heterogeneously enhancing mass in the left upper quadrant of the abdomen (figure 1).
 - Mass appeared separate from the spleen and the pancreas.
 - Mass appeared to be abutting the greater curvature of the stomach.
 - At no point in the scan was the mass attached to the liver.
- Diagnosis of probable gastric tumor (GIST) was entertained.
- She underwent laparoscopic surgical resection
- During surgery, the mass was found to be attached to the left lobe of the liver through a narrow pedicle and was not attached to the stomach.
 - The mass was easily excised off the division of the narrow pedicle.
- All her symptoms had resolved at the follow-up appointment at 2 weeks.
- Final pathology revealed that the mass was a hepatic mesenchymal harmartoma of the liver.
 - Contained multiple cysts filled with clear fluid.
 - Some cysts lined by flattened to cuboidal epithelium and some lined by fibrous tissue.
 - Thin layer of hepatocellular parenchyma present beneath external capsule.
 - Solid areas have abundant stroma; some myxoid and some hyalized.

DISCUSSION

- Only 1-2% of all pediatric tumors are comprised of liver tumors⁽³⁾.
- Of these tumors, only 8% are HMH⁽¹⁾.
- Among adult patients with HMH...
 - The majority is female (76%).
 - Females tend to be younger (average age of 42) than males (average age of 51).
 - Males are more likely to have a solid tumor (75%) than females (23%).
 - About half of all patients reported pain at presentation (M= 50%, F= 59%).
 - Females are more likely to have an overall larger sized tumor (12.75 cm) than males (8 cm).

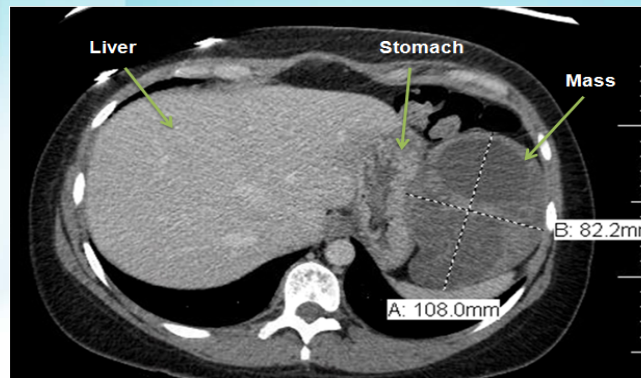


Figure 1. A representative section of CT scan demonstrating a large mass not attached to the liver.

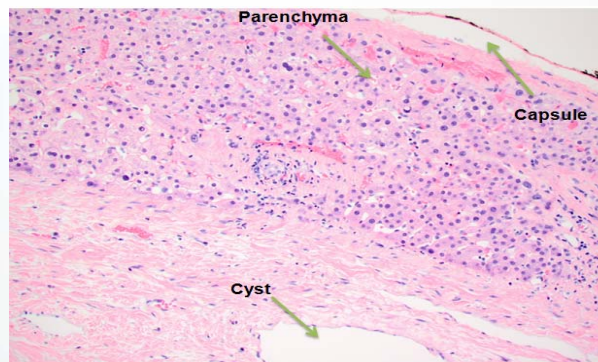


Figure 2. Pathology of tumor (20X/0.70).

Table 1. Reported cases of HMH of the liver in adults⁽²⁾

Case #	Year Published	Age (years)	Sex	Largest tumor dimension	Gross appearance	Pain at presentation
1	1956	66	F	5 cm	C	N
2	1975	38	M	8 cm	S	N
3	1979	19	F	24 cm	C	Y
4	1987	32	F	14 cm	C	N
5	1987	20	F	8 cm	C	N
6	1988	30	F	18 cm	C	N
7	1988	28	F	30 cm	S	N
8	1991	69	F	29 cm	C	N
9	1992	62	M	8 cm	S	N
10	1994	53	M	20 cm	C	Y
11	1994	56	F	7.5 cm	C	Y
12	1999	57	F	6 cm	S	Y
13	2000	21	F	17 cm	C	Y
14	2002	46	F	6 cm	C	Y
15	2003	63	F	24 cm	S	Y
16	2006	51	M	19 cm	S	Y
Present	2016	38	F	10 cm	C	Y

Notes. F= Female, M= Male; C= Cystic, S= Solid; N= No, Y= Yes

CONCLUSION

- These neoplasms are sometimes presented in an adult population, not just in pediatrics.
- Not all liver neoplasms are malignant.
- These tumors have been reported to turn malignant, hence they should be resected⁽¹⁾.
- Symptomology in adults can differ from pediatrics and should be taken into consideration for diagnosis.
- All symptomatic HMH should be considered for resection.
- Imaging techniques used to give an oncology diagnosis cannot solely determine the final patient pathology.

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