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Chilaiditi's sign as an incidental finding in a patient with hydatid cyst of the liver

Demetrius Chilaiditi first described in 1910 a radiographic finding where the large bowel or, rarely, small bowel, is interposed between the diaphragm and liver [1]. It occurs in 0.025% to 0.28% of the general population [2]. It is usually asymptomatic. The knowledge of this entity is important because air under the diaphragm seen on plain radiograph usually represents pneumoperitoneum from a perforated viscus and is usually an indication for immediate surgical exploration. We report a new case of this radiographic finding.

Case report

A 64-years old women with previous history of hypertension was admitted to our institution for abdominal pain. Physical examination was normal. A chest roentgenogram revealed elevation of the right hemi diaphragm. Abdominal ultrasound shows Ultrasound showed a typical multi vesicular hydatid cysts and a colon between liver and diaphragm. A subsequent computed tomographic scan showed interposition of the colon between the liver and diaphragm in front of the liver and an hydatid cyst of the liver. She underwent a surgery by laprotomy. Per operatively the right colon was interposed between the liver and the diaphragme. We chose a conservative treatment for the management of the hydatid cyst Deroofing with external drainage was realized. The post operative course was unfaithful and the patient was discharged

Conclusion

The chailiditii syndrom is a rare entity. It must be know by physicians because this syndrome must be differentiated from pneumoperitoneum and diaphragmatic hernia; which therapeutic approach is not the same. It must be surgical in when there is pneumoperitoneum end diaphragmatic hernia and Chaliditii "sign" does not require specific treatment

References

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- 2- Bruce M. Lo. Radiographic look-alikes: distinguishing between pneumoperitoneum and pseudo pneumoperitoneum. J Emerg Med 2010; 38: 36-9.

Figure 1 : Chest roentgenogram : Elevation of the right hemi diaphragm and the air under the diaphragm.

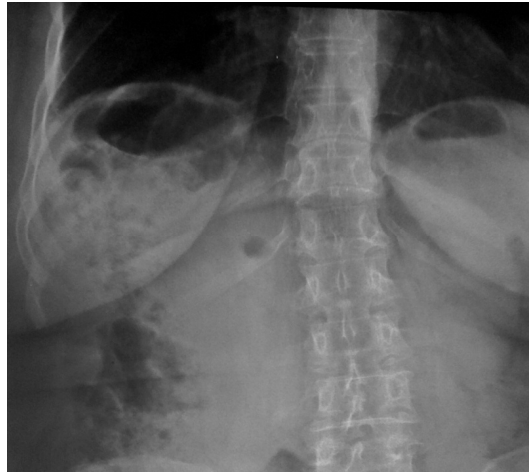


Figure 2 : CT scan : Interposition of the colon between the liver and diaphragm



Figure 3 : CT scan :Hydatid cyst of the liver

