CLINICAL IMAGE IN GASTROENTEROLOGY

An uncommon gallbladder location associated with polycystic liver

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

V.J. Alegre Salles*, C.E. Azevedo Ferreti, M.M. Natrielli de Almeida

Servicio de Cirugía General y Digestiva, Hospital Regional Vale del Paraíba, Taubaté, San Pablo, Brazil

The gallbladder is located between segments IV and V of the liver in a bare area, not covered by the visceral peritoneum.

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 1 Abdominal computed tomography scan showing voluminous hepatic cysts.

Figure 2 Subcapsular position of the gallbladder.

* Please cite this article as: Alegre Salles VJ, Azevedo Ferreti CE, Natrielli de Almeida MM. Una localización poco frecuente de la vesícula biliar asociada con el hígado poliquístico. Revista de Gastroenterología de México. 2015;80:109–110.

* Corresponding author at: University of Taubat, Medicine, Avenue Tiradentes, 280 Taubat, San Paul 12030180 Brazil.
Phone: +550121536813888; Home: +55012153631061; fax: +5501153631061.
E-mail address: geriaclinsecretaria@gmail.com (V.J. Alegre Salles).

2255-534X/© 2014 Asociación Mexicana de Gastroenterología. Published by Masson Doyma México S.A. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).
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.

**Financial disclosure**

No financial support was received in relation to this study/article.

**Conflict of interest**

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.