A giant liver adenoma

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Available online: 4 May 2012

A 39-year-old woman was referred for evaluation of a liver mass found in an abdominal ultrasound. She complained of right hypochondrial discomfort that worsened after meals. Since the age of 21 she was on oral contraceptives [1]. On physical examination it was possible to palpate a tender non-pulsatile mass 10 cm below the right costal grid. Laboratory exams revealed normal liver tests and a normal serum alpha-fetoprotein level. A contrast-enhanced CT (figure 1A) and MRI (figure 1B) studies were preformed. Both revealed a well-circumscribed solid mass with $15 \times 14 \times 11$ cm in the right lobe. This mass presented high lipid content, a central scar and an uncharacteristic enhancement pattern in the contrast study. These findings made difficult the differential diagnosis between liver adenoma and focal nodular hyperplasia (FNH) [2,3]. The central scar is typical of FNH. Nevertheless, in rare cases, it may also be present in adenomas, particularly in large ones, due to fat, necrosis or old hemorrhage [4]. In fact, the liver biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of adenoma (figure 1D). The patient underwent a segmental hepatectomy (figure 1C) and 1 year later she was asymptomatic and the control CT was normal.
Disclosure of interest: the authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest concerning this article.

Acknowledgements: the authors would like to thank Dr. Rodrigues da Silva, Dra. Catarina Tavares and Dra. Palmira Lima for their great contribution.

References


