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Hepatic epithelioid angiomyolipoma: contribution of a new case

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Dear Editor,

In relation to the article published by Ortiz S et al. (1), we have recently seen a 37-year-old female who presented to the Emergency Department with pain in right hypochondrium and a mild increase in transaminase levels. An ultrasound was performed that showed a large 13-cm tumor in the right hepatic lobe, which was heterogeneous with hyperechogenic and anechoic areas. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a mass in segments 5 and 8, with a fat component (hypointense in out of phase) and hypocaptant necrotic areas under study with contrast and hyperintense areas of bleeding in the out of phase image (Fig. 1).

The diagnosis was a tumor with fatty content: adenoma, angiomyoliopoma or hepatocarcinoma with necrosis and bleeding. An incomplete excision was performed and the histopathological analysis reported a non-encapsulated mesenchymal neoplasia consisting of epithelioid habit cells with atypical focal nuclei interposed with mature adipose tissue and areas of ischemic necrosis and hemorrhage. The expression of vimentin, HBM-45 and/or actin was compatible with angiomyolipoma.

Discussion

The differential diagnosis of fatty liver lesions includes benign lesions such as lipoma, adenoma, focal nodular hyperplasia and adrenal remains, whereas malignant tumors

include hepatocarcinoma and liposarcoma (2). Exceptionally, some metastases may contain fat.

Hepatic epithelioid angiomyolipoma is a rare mesenchymal tumor with malignant potential formed by epithelioid cells that usually occurs in adult females (2). The radiological diagnosis is often made by MRI and weighted T1 phase-out of phase sequence is the most specific (up to 100% determination of intratumoral fat). Typically, they are positive for HMB-45, Melan-A and smooth muscle actin (3).

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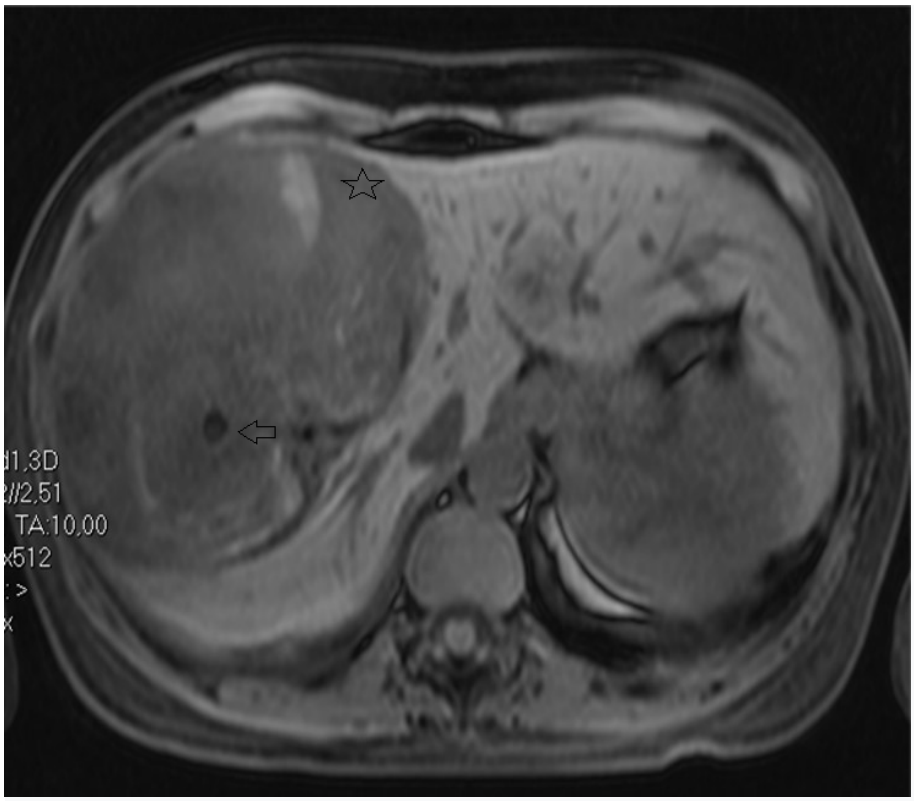

Fig. 1. GE wT1 axial sequence in the out of phase sequence. A hepatic tumor with hypointense areas corresponding to a fatty component (arrow) and hyperintense areas secondary to bleeding (star).