

¿Tumor hepático primario? No todo lo que parece lo es

Primary liver tumor? Not everything is what it seems

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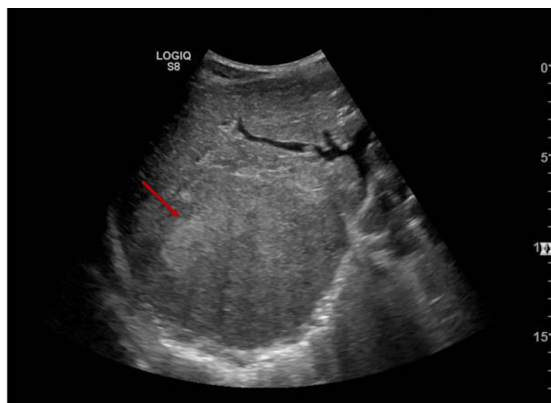


Figure 1

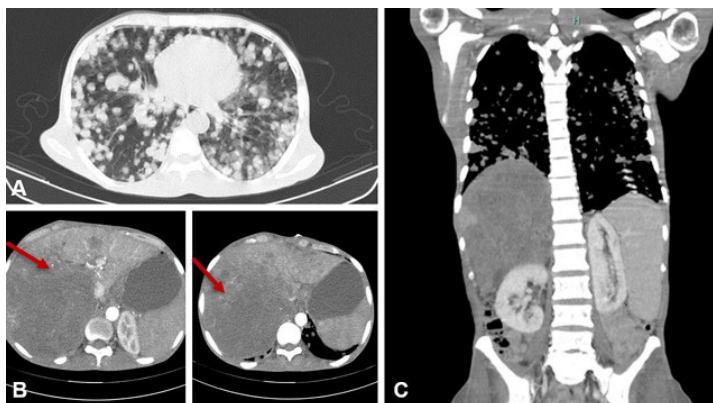


Figure 2

CASE DESCRIPTION

A 37-year-old man from Guinea-Bissau presented to the emergency department with symptoms of abdominal pain, asthenia and anorexia. He had no significant medical history, chronic medication use or prior hospitalizations. Upon examination, decreased breath sounds in the lungs and a painful mass in the abdomen. Laboratory tests showed abnormalities in liver function, elevated C-reactive protein, and a chronic hepatitis B infection.

An abdominal ultrasound revealed multiple nodular areas in the liver (Figure 1), indicating potential primary or secondary lesions. The differential diagnoses included hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and germ cell tumor (GCT). Further imaging with a computed tomography scan showed extensive metastasis to the lungs and liver (Figure 2), with elevated tumor markers pointing towards a GCT, possibly embryonal carcinoma.

Despite the lack of histopathological confirmation, the patient's condition deteriorated rapidly, leading to respiratory failure. Urgent chemotherapy was recommended by the Oncology team, but unfortunately, the patient's condition worsened, ultimately resulting in death.

DISCUSSION

Testicular GCT, although more common in young men, can manifest atypically with metastatic disease. Elevated tumor markers can aid in an accurate diagnosis and timely treatment, particularly in cases of acute symptoms and life-threatening complications.¹

Early recognition and immediate management of testicular GCT are essential for optimizing outcomes, particularly in advanced cases. Heightened awareness of unusual presentations and the importance of tumor markers can facilitate prompt diagnosis and treatment initiation, potentially influencing patient survival.²

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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INFORMED CONSENT

Written patient consent was obtained

STATEMENT OF ETHICS

The authors declare that the procedures were followed according to the regulations established by the Clinical Research and Ethics Committee and to the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association updated in 2013. The authors declare having followed the protocols in use at their working center regarding patients' data publication.

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