## **Hydatid Cyst**

Yung-Hsiang Hsu

Department of Pathology, Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital and University, Hualien, Taiwan

A 28 year-old Lama presented with an alveolar type hydatid cyst of the liver. Grossly, multilocular cysts were present (Fig. 1). Microscopically, the cystic wall showed an external laminated membrane but no scolices (Fig. 2) diagnostic of alveolar hydatid cyst. Parasitic cysts of the liver are almost always Echinococcal (the larval stage of Echinococcus granulosus, E. multilocularis or E. vogeli). E. granulosus, prevalent in areas where livestock are raised in association with dogs, produces unilocular cystic lesions. E. multilocularis produces multilocular cystic lesions without scolices. The definite host is the dog; cysts of Echinococosis develop in intermediate hosts such as sheep, cattle, humans, goats, camels and horses. Cysts are most common in the liver and lungs but may occur in other organs. These cysts may cause hepatomegaly. Radiographic imaging may reveal calcification of the cystic wall. The treatment of choice is surgical removal. During surgery, cysts should be sterilized before drainage or extripation to prevent anaphylaxis. Drug therapy is not effective. (Tzu Chi **Med J** 2006; **18**:400)

## REFERENCES

- Yuan WH, Lee RC, Chou YH, Chiang JH, Chen YK, Hsu HC: Hydatid cyst of the liver: A case report and literature review. Kaohsiung J Med Sci 2005; 21:418-423.
- Jiang CP, Don M, Jones M: Liver alveolar echinococosis in China: Clinical aspect with relative basic research. World J Gastroenterol 2005; 11:4611-4617.
- Bortoletti G, Gabriele F, Conchedda M: Natural history of cystic echinococcosis in humans. Parassitologia 2004; 46:363-366.

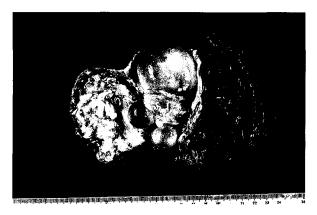


Fig. 1. Multilocular cysts are seen on cut surfare.



Fig. 2. The cystic wall only presents external laminated membrane without scolices. (PAS × 200)

Address reprint requests and correspondence to: Dr. Yung-Hsiang Hsu, Department of Pathology, Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital, 707, Section 3, Chung Yang Road, Hualien, Taiwan