

Hydatid Cyst

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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 *Echinococcosis* 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 extirpation to prevent anaphylaxis. Drug therapy is not effective. (*Tzu Chi Med J* 2006; **18**:400)



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



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

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