Splenosis of Glisson’s capsule

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Clinical—A 42-year-old woman was sent to our radiology department for evaluating masses at right suprarenal location and in the hepatic parenchyma. She had been misdiagnosed as right adrenocortical carcinoma with multiple hepatic metastases in another institution due to sonographic and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) findings.

Ultrasonographic examination revealed four lesions at the right suprarenal location and three lesions in the right lobe of the liver (Figure 1). Lesions all showed the same intensity on all MRI sequences.

Figure 1. Oblique sonogram reveals solid, well-defined, homogeneous, hypoechoic mass (arrows) compressed the liver parenchyma and Glisson’s capsule is seen as linear hyperechoic band

Diffusion weighted imaging (DWI) revealed multiple hyperintense lesions and on apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) map images, lesions showed decreased ADC values similar to the normal splenic tissue (Figure 2a,b).

Tc-99m labelled heat-damaged erythrocytes scintigraphy revealed the presence of multiple lesions of uptake in the hepatic parenchyma, right suprarenal location and left upper quadrant (Figure 3).

So, the diagnosis of intrahepatic and intraperitoneal splenosis was made, without any invasive procedure.
Figure 2a. DWI shows multiple ovoid hyperintense lesions in the right lobe of the liver, suprarenal location and left upper quadrant

Figure 2b. On ADC map image, lesions show decreased ADC levels (arrows)

Figure 3. Tc-99m heat damaged erythrocytes scintigraphy, Multiple lesions of uptake in the hepatic parechyma and left upper quadrant are seen (arrows)

**Discussion**—Splenosis is the heterotopic autotransplantation of splenic fragments following splenic surgery or trauma. It has been shown to develop in up to 67% of splenic injuries.\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^4\) Implantation of splenic tissue occurs at the time of splenic rupture or splenectomy, when the splenic pulp disperses into the peritoneal surfaces.\(^5\)\(^,\)\(^6\)

On non-enhanced MRI, the mass is homogenously hypointense on T1-weighted images, and hyperintense on T2-weighted images. The mass is hyperintense on DWI images and hypointense on ADC map images.

So the term "hepatic” is not true for these lesions and we suggest using the term “splenosis of Glisson’s capsule” in stead of the term “hepatic splenosis”.
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References:


