

Hydatid Cyst of the Kidney Open in the  
Urinary Tract About One ObservationRachid Khemakhem<sup>1</sup>, Houda Rahay<sup>1</sup>, Faouzi Nouira<sup>1</sup>, Sofiene Ghorbel<sup>1</sup>, Fouzia Chennoufi<sup>1</sup>, Wiem Douira<sup>2</sup>, Lamia Gharsallah<sup>3</sup>, Ibtisem Bellagha<sup>2</sup>, Sihem Barsaoui<sup>3</sup> and Said Jlidi<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of pediatric surgery, Children's Hospital of Tunis, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia<sup>2</sup>Department of pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Tunis, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia<sup>3</sup>Department of pediatric radiology, Children's Hospital of Tunis, University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia

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## Abstract

Echinococcosis or hydatid cyst disease of the kidney is extremely rare in children and constitutes only 2-4% of all cases of hydatid disease. It can be complicated by opening in the urinary tract and cause obstructive renal failure.

We present a pediatric case of hydatid cyst of the kidney opened in the urinary tract and causing obstruction and urinary tract dilatation. The presentation is as acute pyelonephritis and the diagnosis was confirmed by renal ultrasound and CT. Surgical treatment is urgent and must be as conservative as possible by excision of the cyst and preservation of the renal parenchyma.

The kidney location of hydatid cyst is uncommon and represents only 2-5% of visceral involvement. The rupture of the cyst in the urinary tract is a complication that can be sometimes the first manifestation of this disease. Treatment should be undertaken urgently to best preserve the renal parenchyma.

## Observation

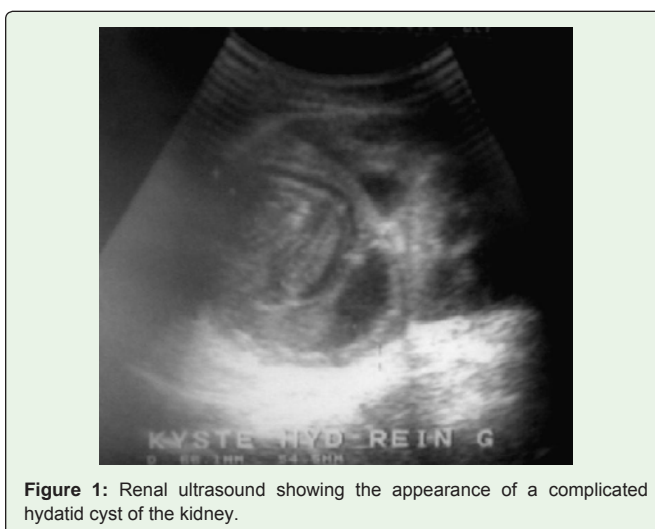
SAMEH H. is a 10 years old girl, born and residing in SILIANA who presented left flank pain with fever associated with burning on urination few days before consultation.

On admission to our department, clinical examination shows a fever of 39 °c, tenderness in the left flank and a pain with left lumbar shock. Upper urinary tract infection was suspected but urine culture was negative.

Renal ultrasound was performed and showed a left kidney increased in size, with a heterogeneous formation measuring 7x5 cm at his upper pole, containing serpiginous non vascular structures with dilated ipsilateral upper urinary tract suggestive of a complicated hydatid cyst of the kidney (Figure 1).

Intravenous urography showed a picture of incomplete left renal pelvis, with no opacification of the upper caliceal group and a dilated renal pelvis (Figure 2).

A Magnetic Resonance Imaging was performed confirming the diagnosis of hydatid cyst of the left kidney open in the urinary tract. The liver and the rest abdominal cavity are free. There was no lung localization of hydatid disease on chest radiograph (Figure 3).



**Figure 1:** Renal ultrasound showing the appearance of a complicated hydatid cyst of the kidney.



**Figure 2:** IVU showing an amputation of the upper caliceal group with dilation of middle and lower caliceal group.

Surgical exploration found a hydatid cyst of the upper pole of the left kidney widely open in the pelvis. It was performed a removal of the proligerous membrane and a resection of the protruding dome with repair of the urinary tract and a nephrostomy after abundant wash of the urinary cavities with hypertonic saline solution (Figure 4). The postoperative course was uneventful.

**Discussion**

Hydatid cyst is a parasitic tumor secondary to the development of the embryo of *Echinococcus granulosus* [1,2,3]. It is an endemic disease in Tunisia and the Maghreb countries, and represents a major health problem.

Dog is the definitive host of *Echinococcus granulosus*. Sheep is the usual intermediate host, but humans are accidental intermediate hosts that become infested by ingestion of water or vegetables contaminated by its eggs. After being accidentally ingested, the embryos break out from the eggs, then penetrate the intestinal mucosa and enter the systemic circulation.

Once the parasitic embryo passes through the intestinal wall, it can reach the portal vein or the lymphatic system. The liver plays an important defensive role, it stopped the majority of parasites and is the most commonly involved site (75%), and subsequently there is



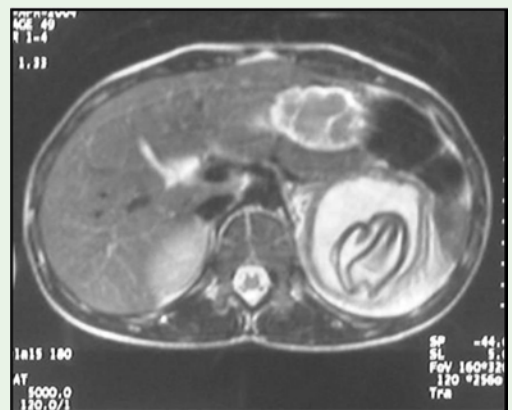
**Figure 3 (b):** MRI appearance of the left kidney hydatid cyst opened in the urinary tract: longitudinal section.

pulmonary involvement (15%), which acts as the second filter and site of involvement for hydatid cysts. Other systemic dissemination may occur at almost any anatomical location in the human body. Renal location is rare (2-5% of visceral) and is usually seen associated with other locations [1,2,3].

In our experience, of a serie of 276 intra-abdominal hydatid cysts, only 10 renal cysts were encountered, two were isolated thereby achieving a frequency of 3.62%. It is most often discovered incidentally during the review of another location and is rarely complicated by rupture into the urinary tract.

As in our patient, the hydatid cyst of the kidney is usually unilateral, with cortical and subcapsular location, preferably polar. The growth of hydatid cyst of the kidney is usually slow and silent explaining the discovery of large masses before the onset of clinical manifestations. Moreover, the clinical presentation is nonspecific: back pain, abdominal mass, hematuria [1].

The rupture of hydatid cyst of the kidney in the urinary tract is the most common complication and it causes the diffusion of the content in the excretory tracts. It is observed in 80% of cases. The



**Figure 3 (a):** MRI appearance of the left kidney hydatid cyst opened in the urinary tract: cross section.



**Figure 4:** Intra-operative appearance, extraction of the proligerous membrane.

pathognomonic sign is consisting of hydatiduria, but it is found in only 10-28% of cases [4]. Sometimes it's on the occasion of an abscess of the kidney that the diagnosis is suspected.

Imaging plays the key role in diagnosing and staging of HC, whereas serology has only a minor, confirmatory role due to high rates of false negative results. It is based on a combination abdominal ultrasound and CT scan.

Ultrasound is the most essential tool for hydatid disease and clearly demonstrates the floating membranes, daughter cysts, and hydatid sand characteristically seen in purely cystic lesions. The diagnosis of hydatid cyst using ultrasound is more reliable and it is specific up-to 80%. The frequent aspect published in pediatric series is type1. Abdominal ultrasound makes the diagnostic and research associations lesions. Elements that suggest the hydatid origin is the fluid nature of the cyst, the mural calcifications, the separation of membrane and the presence of daughter's vesicles. The cyst can be classified in one the five groups according to the Gharbi's classification [3,4].

CT scan is the radiographic examination of reference, completing ultrasound. It confirms the cystic nature of the lesion associated with multiple vesicles suggesting intracystic partitions girls, whose density is relatively attenuated to the mother cyst. CT shows a hypo dense mass before injection of contrast. The membrane is not enhanced after injection, as the septa, an enhancement is observed in case of communication with the urinary tract. It defined the best seat the cyst and its extension, its relationship to urinary tract, the parenchymal consequences and look for other hydatid locations. Some authors do not consider CT indispensable only in case of hydatid cyst type IV and V, whose contents cannot be correctly analyzed by ultrasound alone [1,3,5].

Serology is generally useful in the diagnosis of hydatid disease and it consists of immunoelectrophoresis, indirect Immunofluorescence and ELISA. However, the sensitivity of serological tests is influenced by the site and maturation of the hydatid cysts, assessment approach is reliable in more than 70% of cases. Hydatid cysts in human lungs,

spleen, or kidney tend to be associated with lower serum antibody levels, Eosinophilia is reported in 25-50% of hydatid disease cases but it may occur in other parasitic diseases [1,4].

The treatment is surgical and must preserve the functional kidney tissue. Resection of the protruding dome after injection of scolicedal solution is the technique of choice. In case of rupture, the urinary tract is repaired and the residual cavity closed in on itself. Drainage of the renal space is required in all cases. Perikystectomy is also widely accepted technique. Partial or total nephrectomy is reserved to cases of significant destroyed renal parenchyma [2].

## Conclusion

The renal location of hydatid cyst is rare, and usually seen with other visceral involvement. It can be complicated by opening of hydatid cyst in the urinary tract, which is the most common complication of this infection. This may involve the renal prognosis by causing urinary tract obstruction.

Treatment is surgical and must be as conservative as possible. Recurrence is another problem that can be prevented by medical treatment after surgery.

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