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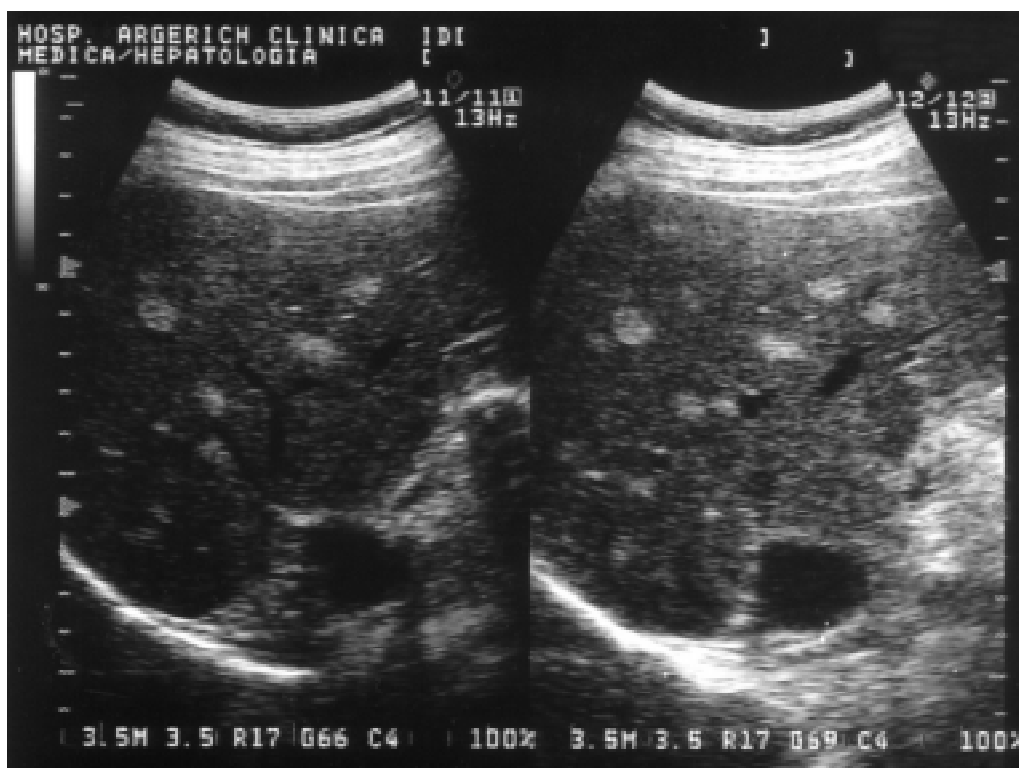


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Hepatic focal fatty change in a chronic hepatitis C patient

Gustavo Castaño,¹ Silvia Sookoian¹



A 53-year-old patient with chronic hepatitis C virus infection was referred because of the presence of multiples ultrasonographic images simulating liver metastasis. Physical examination was normal. Liver function test showed increased levels of aminotransferases, high levels of γ -glutamyltransferase and normal alkaline phosphatase. Liver ultrasound identified multiples nodules that measured 0.5-2 cm in diameter, located in both lobules. Serum alpha-fetoprotein level was 13 ng/mL. A fine-needle aspiration cytology failed to reveal neoplastic cells.

Liver biopsy showed chronic hepatitis, grading 7/18, staging 1/6 in Ishak score; moderate steatosis with multiples microlipogranulomas.

This case illustrates an infrequent ultrasonographic presentation as well as a rare clinical entity, since fatty change of the liver is generally found as a diffuse process

involving the entire organ. On the other hand, the lesions are generally encountered incidentally at *post mortem* autopsy.¹

Focal spared areas of fatty liver may be interpreted as pseudotumors because of the relatively high intensity of fatty areas of the liver, sometimes simulating metastasis.²

Knowledge and awareness of these non-neoplastic nodular lesions may have importance in the differential diagnosis of space-occupying lesions of the liver.

References

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2. Yates CK, Streight RA. Focal fatty infiltration of the liver simulating metastatic disease. *Radiology* 1986; 159: 83-84.

¹ Internal Medicine Department, Liver Unit, Hospital Argerich, Buenos Aires, Argentina.