

# Hydatid Cyst of the Liver Ruptured into the Thorax in a Child

Zouari M<sup>1,\*</sup>, Abdallah AKB<sup>1,2</sup>, Abid I<sup>1,2</sup>, Dhaou MB<sup>1,2</sup> and Mhiri R<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pediatric Surgery, Hedi-Chaker Hospital 3029 Sfax, Tunisia

<sup>2</sup>Sfax Medical School, Sfax, Tunisia

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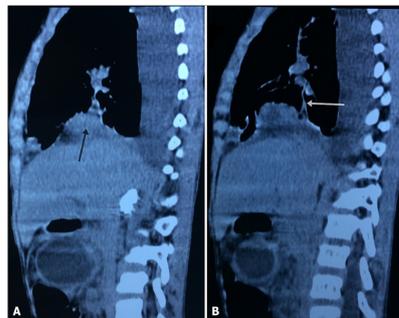
## \*Corresponding to:

Mohamed Zouari, Department of Pediatric Surgery, Hedi Chaker Hospital, 3029 Sfax, Tunisia, Tel: +21697459586, E-mail: mohamed.zouari@rns.tn

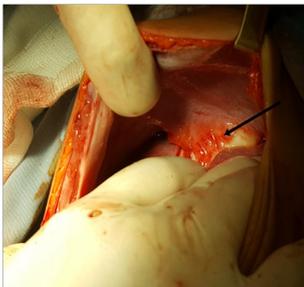
## 1. Clinical Image

Hydatid disease (HD) is an important medical, social, and economic problem in many Mediterranean and Middle East countries [1]. Hydatid disease affects most commonly the liver and lungs [2]. One of the serious complications of liver hydatid cysts is cyst rupture. The rupture can occur after a trauma, or spontaneously because of increased intracystic pressure [3]. The surgical management of cyst rupture is difficult, and often associated with high morbidity and mortality rates [3, 4]. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of a hydatid cyst of the liver ruptured into the thorax in a child. Written informed consent was obtained from the legal guardian of the patient to publish this case and accompanying images in scientific journals for research and educational purposes.

In February 2018, A 6-year-old boy who fell to the ground from a two meters high wall presented to the emergency department (HediChaker Hospital, Sfax, Tunisia) for complaints of dyspnea, cough, and abdominal pain of around 10 hours duration. The patient lived in a rural area with exposure to animals. His medical history revealed no known comorbidities. On examination, his temperature was 38.2°C. The respiratory rate was 44 breaths/min, heart rate 102 beats/min, arterial blood pressure 90/60 mm Hg, and SpO<sub>2</sub> 90%. Abdominal examination revealed tenderness and ecchymosis on the right abdomen. In the computed tomography (CT) evaluation, the liver had multiple low-density lesions in segments V, VI, VII, and VIII (4.5-cm, 4-cm, 3-cm, and 5-cm diameter, respectively). The hydatid cyst of the hepatic dome was complicated by pulmonary cracking with evidence of a fistulous pathway (Figure 1). There was also a right-sided pleural effusion. The patient underwent emergency surgery after 90 min from the diagnosis. After insertion of a chest tube in the fifth right intercostal space, a right subcostal laparotomy was performed. The ruptured hepatic cyst (Figure 2) was treated by cystectomy, excision of the germinative membrane, and closure of the fistulous tract with non-absorbable suture. Then the excision of the other hydatid cysts was performed. After operation, oral albendazole treatment (10 mg/kg) for 6 months was suggested as medical adjuvant treatment.



**Figure 1:** The thoracoabdominaltomodensitometry with coronary reconstruction shows a hydatid cyst of the hepatic dome (A; black arrow) complicated by pulmonary cracking with evidence of a fistulous pathway (B; white arrow).



**Figure 2:** Laparotomy revealed a hydatid cyst of the hepatic dome (arrow) with inflammatory adhesions between the cyst and the diaphragm.

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