

Giant Brain Hydatid Cyst in an Adult: A New Case Report

Bir Yetişkinde Dev Beyin Hidatik Kisti: Yeni Bir Olgu Sunumu

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ABSTRACT

Cystic echinococcosis is an important zoonotic disease that occurs in humans and mammals in general, which causes considerable economic loss and poses health concerns in different parts of the world. The patient involved in this case report was a 28-year old man living in Birjand city who had been suffering from intermittent headache, nausea and vomiting for the past two weeks. The other symptoms presented by the patient were dizziness, blurred vision, seizures and imbalance. The patient only complained of headache in the last two weeks and had no symptoms of visual or speech impairment. He had a history of consuming raw vegetables, but did not have canine contact. In brain computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging, a large cyst was evident in his brain. The patient was admitted to Razi Hospital in Birjand and followed-up by surgical treatment of the hydatid cyst, with no complications observed.

Keywords: Hydatid cyst, brain, Birjand

ÖZ

Kistik ekinokokkoz, insanlar ve memelilerde; dünyanın farklı bölgelerinde dikkate değer ekonomik kayıplara ve halk sağlığı sorunlarına neden olan önemli bir zoonotik hastalıktır. Birjand şehrinde yaşayan 28 yaşındaki erkek hasta son iki hafta içinde zaman zaman baş ağrısı, mide bulantısı ve kusma geçiren bir giyim satıcısıydı. Diğer belirtiler baş dönmesi, bulanık görme, nöbetler ve dengesizlikti. Hasta sadece son iki hafta içinde baş ağrısından yakınmaktaydı ve görme bozukluğu veya konuşma semptomları yoktu. Hasta çiğ sebze tüketme öyküsünden bahsetti fakat köpeklerle temas öyküsü bulunmuyordu. Bilgisayarlı beyin tomografisi ve manyetik rezonans görüntüleme beyinde büyük bir kist görüldü. Hasta Birjand'da Razi Hastanesi'ne yatırıldı ve herhangi bir komplikasyon olmadan kist hidatik cerrahi tedavisi ile takip edildi.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Hidatik kist, beyin, Birjand

INTRODUCTION

Hydatid disease, a significant health problem in many developing countries, have a complicated life cycle composed of canine as a definitive host and ruminant and accidentally human as an intermediate host. The more common cause of this disease is *Echinococcus granulosus* (*E. granulosus*) (1,2). In different countries, especially in countries where animal husbandry is prevalent, such as South Africa, Chile, Paraguay, Argentina, Australia, Tanzania, Brazil, Siberia, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, North China, South Japan,

Vietnam, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel and so on, as such native (endemic) exists. This disease is one of the occupational diseases that has been seen in shepherds and butchers (3,4). Hydatid disease is commonly found in all parts of Iran and is the most important worm for causing disease, infectious lesions, complications and mortality in the country (5,6). Here we present an adult patient with a giant brain hydatid disease and non-specific symptoms, who was treated successfully by surgery.



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CASE REPORT

The patient was a 28-year-old man living in Birjand city and a clothing seller who had been suffering from headaches, nausea and vomiting from time to time for the past two weeks. The patient has no history of diabetes, hypertension, aspirin or warfarin use. The patient only complained of headaches in the last two weeks and had no symptoms of vision impairment, or speech. In cervical vertebrae, the head was symmetrical and the neck was symmetrical in the midline. There was no movement defect in the examination of the limbs, and the strength of the limbs was 5.5. In brain (cephalic) computed tomography (CT), a large cyst was evident in brain. A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain without an injection showed a large, unrestricted cyst in the diffusion weighted imaging images on the front of the brain in

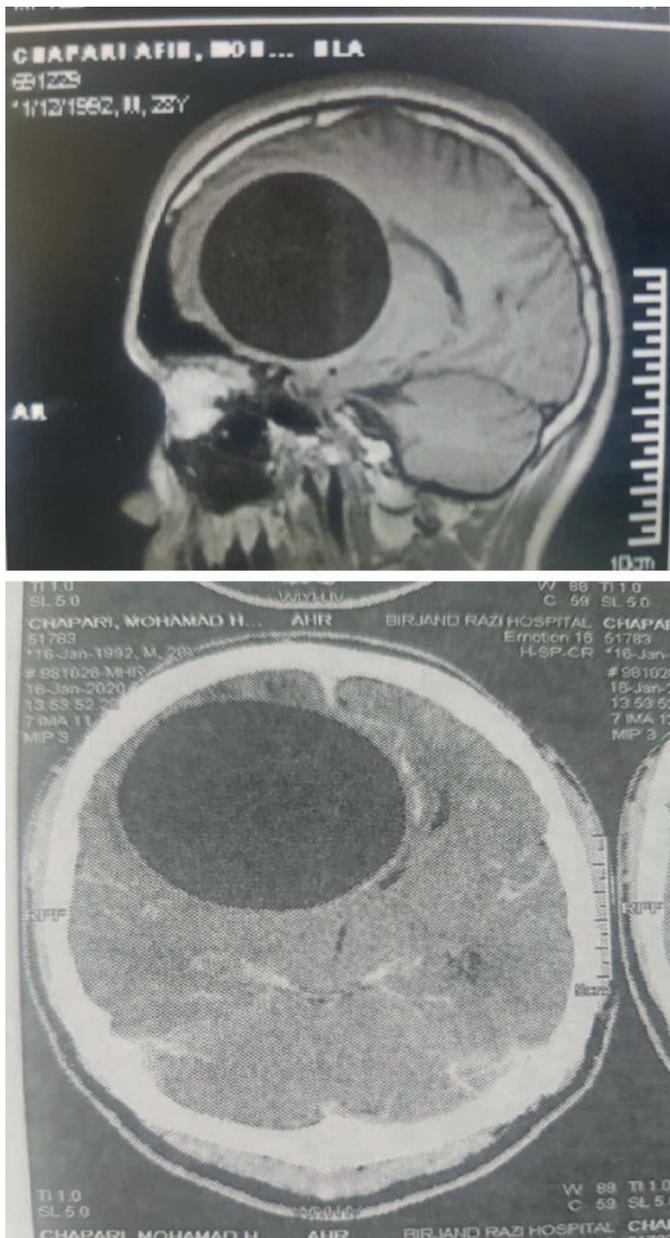


Figure 1. Brain MRI shows a large brain hydatid cyst in the left frontoparietal

MRI: Magnetic resonance imaging

the right hemisphere, which was accompanied by pressure on the flex, ventral, and temporal lobes (Figure 1). Moderate peripheral edema was also observed. Initially, a differential diagnosis of arachnoid cyst was considered for the patient. No evidence based on fluid accumulation was observed on MRI. In Post fossa, no lesions were seen in the cerebellum and nerve nuclei 7 and 8. In the skull, the anatomical signals and landmarks were reported to be normal. The bone flap was placed around its location, and due to the size of the craniotomy, the rest of the flap I removed was repaired with a mesh. It was sewn under the skin and the patient was transferred to the intensive care unit and after a few days he was discharged in good general condition. In the initial evaluation of the patient at the beginning of hospitalization; the patient was conscious and oriented. He had no history of specific illness, family illness, blood pressure, and sleep disorder. The patient had no cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, skin, musculoskeletal, or psychological problems. Laboratory results showed that patient did not have leukocytosis but had eosinophilia (12%). Further laboratory and imaging findings were normal (white blood cell: 9.46, red blood cell: 5.15, hemoglobin: 14.7, hydrochlorothiazide: 44.7, mean cell volume: 86.8, mean corpuscular hemoglobin: 28.5, mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration: 32.9, platelet: 264,000, partial thromboplastin time: 31.1, prothrombin time: 14.1, international normalized ratio: 1.2, fasting blood sugar: 79, urea: 31, chromium: 0.98). In chest X-ray, it had multiple cystic areas, and in the liver and spleen, it had multiple cysts (Figure 2).

The patient was admitted to Razi Hospital in Birjand with a diagnosis of brain cyst and an infectious disease consultation was

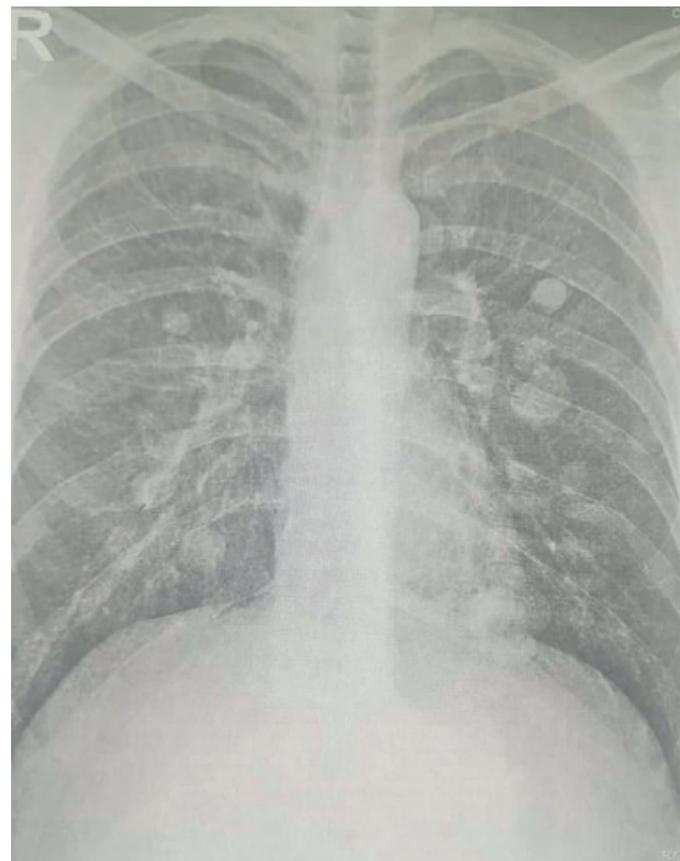


Figure 2. Chest X-ray showed consolidation in the lung

requested and then consent was obtained from the patients for publication of this report and accompanying images. Hydatid-disease was considered highly probable in an infectious disease consultation and medical therapy such as albendazole use before surgery. In total, the patient underwent surgery twice at Razi Hospital in birjand. Craniotomy surgery was performed for 3.5 hours, and after craniotomy and duratomy and removal of the bone flap, the flap was placed under the skin of the abdomen and the continuation of the surgery was assigned the next time. One week after the first operation cyst with dimensions of 90x40 mm were successfully removed from the patient's brain with a second operation (Figure 3, 4).

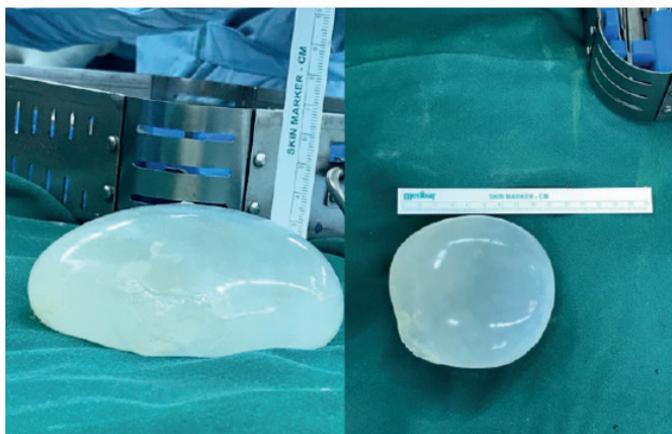
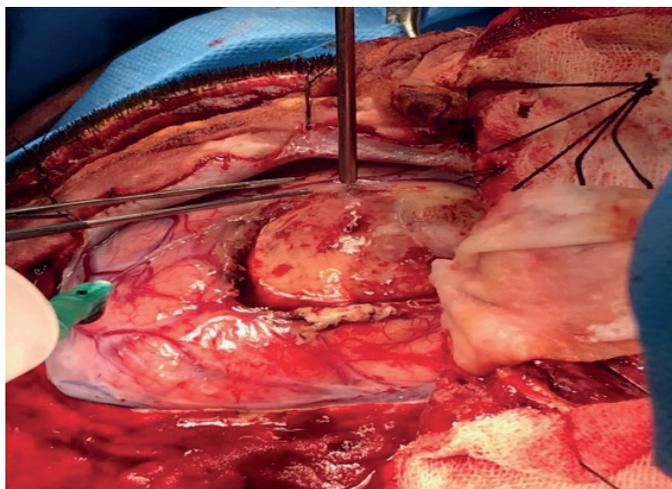


Figure 3. Surgical excision of the brain hydatid cyst

DISCUSSION

Cystic echinococcosis is a zoonotic parasite disease caused by *E. granulosus*. The definitive host of this helminthic parasite is canine, while the wide range of domestic and wild animals serve as intermediate hosts. Human act as accidentally intermediate host for this parasite and infected by ingestion of *E. granulosus* eggs through faeces of infected canine (7). Cystic echinococcosis mainly involved extracranial organ such as liver and lungs but in rare cases it can cause intracranial infection (6). The CE of brain is only account for up to 2% of all intracranial space-occupying lesions (8). This form of CE is occurred commonly when

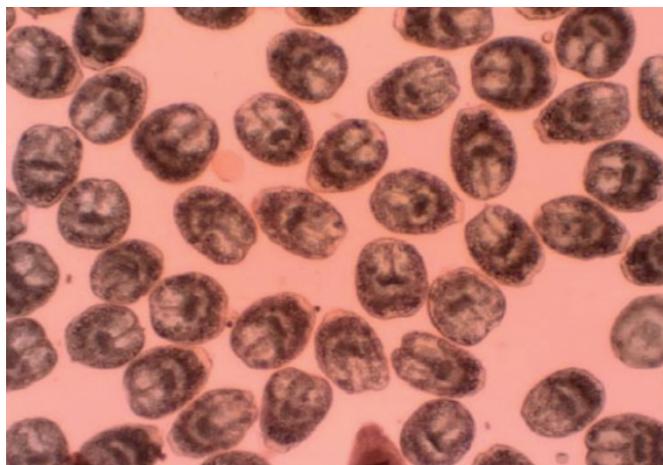


Figure 4. Protoscolex of hydatid cysts in fluid of cyst

protoscoleces escape through the hepatic, pulmonary, and cardiac filters and reaches the brain and often presents as a singular (9). In rare it was occurred by rupture of extracranial cyst surgically of by trauma and it is often seen multiple (10). Also, in studies, the CE patient reported diplopia, ataxia, hemiparesis and even coma. In the current case report, patient just presents a non-specific sign such as degree of headache and vomiting. Hydatid disease is usually diagnosed by clinical findings, medical history, serological, and imaging methods. In case of cerebral hydatid disease, many results tend to be false negative by serological test, so the imaging evaluation such a CT and MRI lead to better result (11,12). In the present case, both CT and MRI were used for diagnosis of brain CE. In CT, the cysts appear smooth, thin-walled lesions and round just like the cerebrospinal fluid. MRI is preferred in showing the cyst's wall compared to CT (7,13). In conclusion, rapid diagnosis and complete surgical removal of the brain CE are the main keys that led to a favourable outcome.

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* Ethics

Informed Consent: Consent was obtained from the patients for publication of this report and accompanying images.

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* Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: K.G., M.A.M., M.M., Concept: K.G., M.A.M., M.M., A.T.K., Design: K.G., M.A.M., M.M., A.T.K., Data Collection or Processing: K.G., M.A.M., M.M., A.T.K., Analysis or Interpretation: A.T.K., Literature Search: R.S., A.T.K., Writing: R.S., A.T.K.

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