



## A rare case of epidermoid cyst of the liver

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#### Abstract:

Epidermoid cysts of the liver are extremely rare and are described both in children and adults. Their exact etiology is unknown. Because of the their possible malignant potential, early detection and resection are mandatory.

**Key words:** Liver, Epidermoid cyst.

#### Introduction:

Liver cysts are commonly encountered in medical practice but epidermoid cysts are very rarely reported. These cysts can be uniloculated or multiloculated. We describe a case of uniloculated epidermoid cyst of liver in a 11 month male child that was treated by surgical resection.

#### Case Report

A 11 month old male child presented to pediatrician who noticed moderate hepatomegaly. On ultrasonogram hypoechoic lesion measuring 10 x 7.5 cm was noted in the right lobe of the liver. In computed tomogram the lesion was pushing the gall bladder and bowel loops to left side. The patient was referred to pediatric surgeon.

The pediatric surgeon planned the excision of the cyst. On admission general condition of the patient was asymptomatic and in a good condition.

Echinococcal serology was normal. Also liver function tests and other blood examinations were normal. After excision, the cyst was sent for histopathology examination.

The specimen measures 11 x 8 cm. The surface was irregular, whitish in places and light brown in others. The cut surface revealed uniloculated cyst with whitish thick fluid.

On histopathology examination, cyst wall is lined by squamous epithelium and supported by fibrous tissue showing variable thickness. The squamous epithelium is 5 to 6 cell layers thick. The cyst was also showing incorporation of normal liver parenchyma. The lining epithelium shows strong positivity for pancytokeratin markers. **Clinical History:** 11 months old boy presented with abdominal distension, vomiting and fever. **Investigation:** Ultrasound abdomen suggestive of liver abscess

## Discussion

Epidermoid cyst of liver is extremely rare. Only a few cases are reported in literature.

In general non-parasitic cystic lesions of liver are extremely rare lesions in children. They may be congenital or acquired. Some times they are noted as accidental findings [1-5].

When the cyst size increase they may present with jaundice, compression or displacement of neighboring organs or even rupture may rarely occurs [2,3,6,7].

A little is known regarding its exact etiology. But according to Schullinger et al [8] there is possibility of its origin from accessory foregut remnant's may be considered. Hence this foregut remnant is responsible for giving squamous epithelium, as seen in esophagus. The other cysts are lined by cuboidal, columnar or ciliated epithelium [2,3,8,11].

Epidermoid cysts has potential to turn into malignancy, hence their early detection and surgical excision is mandatory [2,3,5,10,12].

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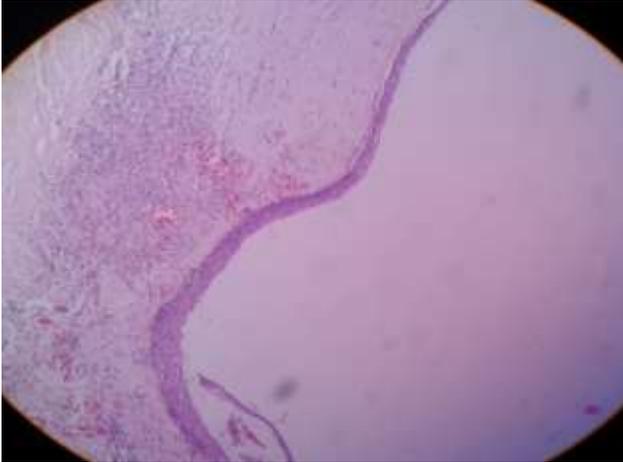
Figure 1:



**Gross:** received multiple grey brown soft tissue bits altogether 10cms.

**Figure 2: Microscopic findings:** Cyst lined by stratified squamous epithelium suggestive of epidermoid cyst.

### Epidermoid cyst liver



**Figure 3:**

Strong positive (cytoplasmic) Pan-cytokeratin staining in the cyst wall lining epithelium and adjacent liver parenchyma.

