



## AN UNUSUAL CASE OF LIVER LIPOMA

## Radiology

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## ABSTRACT

Liver lipoma is a rare benign mesenchymal tumour without malignant degeneration, most of them are asymptomatic but some of them may present with pain in the abdomen. Liver lipomas are generally incidental findings and are found during scanning the patient for some other pathology. In this report, we describe the case of a 43 year old female with a giant liver lipoma observed during an CT abdomen examination.. The purpose of this report is provide an anthological case of liver lipoma, helping to define the diagnostic features with imaging techniques.

## KEYWORDS

Lipoma, Mesenchymal, Tumor

## CASE HISTORY

A 43 year old female, with no significant past medical history, was sent to our hospital by her primary care physician for vague abdominal pain. The patient had no history of alcohol abuse neither abdominal operation. We performed an abdominal ultrasonography, which revealed a large and well-defined mass of mixed echogenicity (iso-hyperechoic), with posterior attenuation, in the right lobe of the liver. Hepatomegaly with ascites was detected.

## DISCUSSION:

Benign hepatic lipomatous tumors may be seen in unusual cases. These include lipoma, myelolipoma, angiomyolipoma and angiomyelolipoma. Hepatic lipomatous tumors may occur in approximately 10% of cases of tuberous sclerosis and renal angiomyolipomas. Liver lipoma is an extremely rare tumor. These tumors are usually asymptomatic and have a good prognosis, without malignant alteration. Most of them are diagnosed incidentally and are asymptomatic. Nevertheless, they may sometimes cause abdominal pain, depending upon their size.

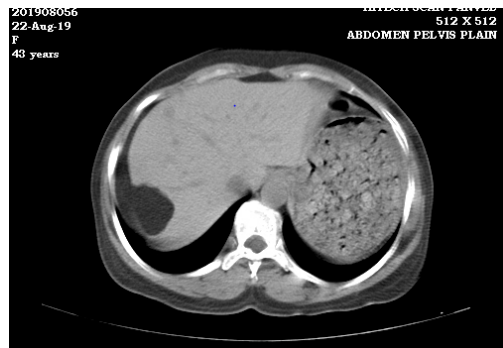
Radiologically lipomas present as sharply bordered hyperechogenic masses with posterior attenuation on US. The diagnostic criteria on CT is a homogeneous image with the density of fat (-20 to -115 HU) and the increase in density on post-contrast images does not reach over 30 HU.

## DIFFERENTIAL DIGNOSIS

- HEPATIC ADENOMA
- PSEUDOLIPOMA OF THE GLISSON CAPSULE
- FOCAL FATTY LIVER
- FAT CONTAINING METASTATIC TUMOR

## CONCLUSION

This case report emphasizes the importance of diagnostic imaging, that enables a multiparametric evaluation of several lesions. Diagnosis and characterization of fat in the liver is a diagnostic challenge in radiologist everyday practise. Atypical features of fatty liver and fat containing tumours may be a frequent cause of pitfalls in diagnosis. This case report summarizes the features of the liver lipoma with different imaging techniques. Usually lipoma is a tumour hyperechogenic at ultrasound, but could be also iso-hypoechogenic owing to its heterogeneity, or in a condition of steatosis/fatty liver disease. In CT scan, it is hypoattenuating in all acquisition phases, with no increased attenuation during administration of contrast medium. The attenuation values must be less than -20 HU. If the attenuation values increased after infusion of contrast medium you have been considered another kind of lesion similar to lipoma (e.g. angiomyolipoma).



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