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EDITOR'S QUIZ: GI SNAPSHOT

Chronic abdominal pain in an alcoholic

Robin Spiller, editor

Clinical presentation

A 38-year-old man with alcoholic liver disease was admitted complaining of intermittent right abdominal pain over a 4 month period. He had been admitted twice during the period with a diagnosis of alcoholic pancreatitis. The pain was relieved after bowel rest and administration of a narcotic agent but recurred despite the absence of alcohol. He did not have fever but lost 5 kg in body weight during the period as a result of decreased appetite. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and abdominal ultrasound showed no obvious malignancy. A review of previous image studies relating to his case revealed that an unrecognised calcification had occurred over the right abdomen 4 months earlier (fig 1, arrow). Abdominal computed tomography was then performed to evaluate the lesion (fig 2).

Question

What is the diagnosis?

See page 185 for answer

This case is submitted by:

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Figure 1 Kidney-ureter-bladder x ray disclosed a calcified lesion over the right abdomen (arrow).

Figure 2 Abdominal computed tomography confirmed the calcified lesion located in the right subhepatic space.