Scalloping of Liver in a Patient with Ascites: Pseudomyxoma Peritonei

Axial contrast-enhanced computer tomography (CECT) showed the classical and diagnostic image of scalloping of the liver surface which is seen in pseudomyxoma peritonei (Figure 1B). Section shows abundant mucin with a fragment of epithelial clusters lined by tall columnar mucin secreting cells (Figure 2).

Pseudomyxoma peritonei is mucinous accumulation within the peritoneal cavity that is associated with a malignant cystic neoplasm most commonly arising from the appendix or ovary.¹ Most often the patient presents with progressively increasing abdominal distension.^{2,3}

The CT findings in pseudomyxoma peritonei could be pathognomonic, characterized by selective sparing of small bowel and its mesentery separated by large volume of mucinous tumor.^{4,5} In a study by Sulkin et al⁶ the liver surface was involved in 100% in large volume disease. Other features in same study were small bowel displacement posteriorly in 25%, pseudomyxoma peritonei the CT image that is visceral scalloping that is on liver or spleen surface is diagnostic and is suggestive of in diagnosis in cases of ascites with diagnostic dilemma.

Figure 1 B: CECT abdomen showing scalloping of liver surface characteristic of pseudomyxoma peritonei.

Figure 2 Section shows abundant mucin with a fragment of epithelial clusters lined by tall columnar mucin secreting cells (hematoxylin and eosin staining).

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Abbreviation: CECT: contrast-enhanced computed tomography

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