CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

3D Hepatic Ultrasonography—A Detailed Imaging Modality

3D ultrasonographic imaging is widely used in gynecology. The sharp transition between fluid (amniotic fluid) and solid matter (the fetus) allows the creation of very detailed, highly contrasted images of the unborn child. This method, however, has not yet been investigated in imaging of the liver. We used it to create a 3D ultrasonographic image of the liver in a patient who had hepatic cirrhosis as well as a superficially located hepatocellular carcinoma (30 × 27 mm) surrounded by ascites (*Figure*). This technical extension of hepatic ultrasonography allows the creation of novel, detailed images of superficial tumors, and it clearly reveals the uneven surface of the cirrhotic liver. Detailed 3D ultrasonographic images of the liver can be generated without any special ultrasonographic probes or contrast media. It remains to be seen whether this method will have any further practical application in medical practice aside from the visualization of cirrhosis and of superficial tumors.

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Conflict of interest statement

The authors state that they have no conflict of interest.

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