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IMAGE OF THE MONTH

Beaver tail liver

Hígado en cola de castor

David Villaescusa Arenas[a,*], Elena Garrido Gómez[a], Carlos Martín de Argila[a], Carmen Díaz del Río[b], Claudia Álvarez Varela[a], Carmen García Huerta[a], Ana Belén Agarrabeitia Casado[a], Miguel García González[a], Agustín Albillos Martínez[a]

[a] *Gastroenterology and Hepatology Department, Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal, Instituto Ramón y Cajal de Investigación Sanitaria (IRYCIS), Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red (CIBEREHD), Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid, Spain*
[b] *University Hospital of Fuenlabrada Radiodiagnosis Service, Madrid, Spain*

A 29-year-old woman underwent an abdominal ultrasound due to chronic abdominal pain.

A subdiaphragmatic, hypoechogenic crescent-shaped area with a maximum diameter of 70 mm, similar to the characteristic images of splenic hematomas, was observed at the perisplenic level (Fig. 1). The patient had no history of previous abdominal trauma.

A study with intravenous contrast (SonoVue®) was performed, showing in arterial phase a homogeneous filling of the crescent-shaped formation with less intensity than the

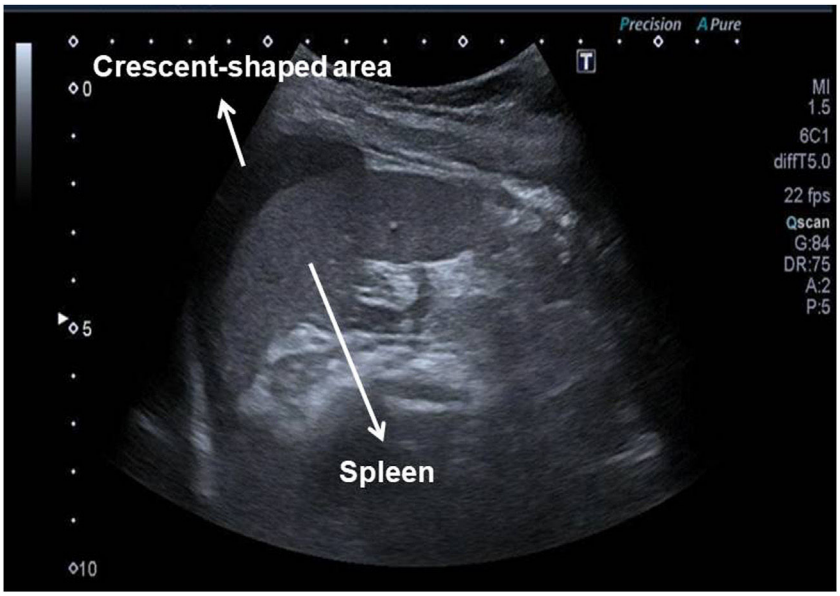

Figure 1 B-mode ultrasound image. Subdiaphragmatic, hypoechogenic crescent-shaped area at the perisplenic level.

* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: davidvillaescusar@gmail.com (D. Villaescusa Arenas).

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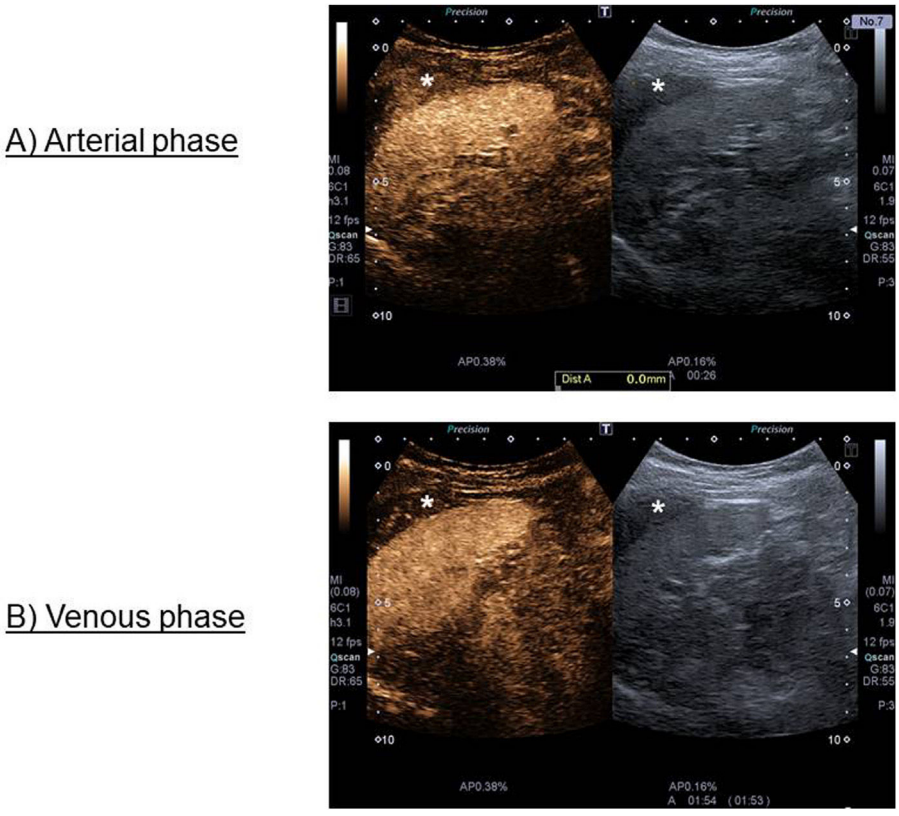

Figure 2 Intravenous contrast (SonoVue®) ultrasound image. (A) Arterial phase: homogeneous filling of the crescent-shaped formation; (B) Late venous phase: washout with respect to the splenic surface of the crescent-shaped formation.
*Area of interest.

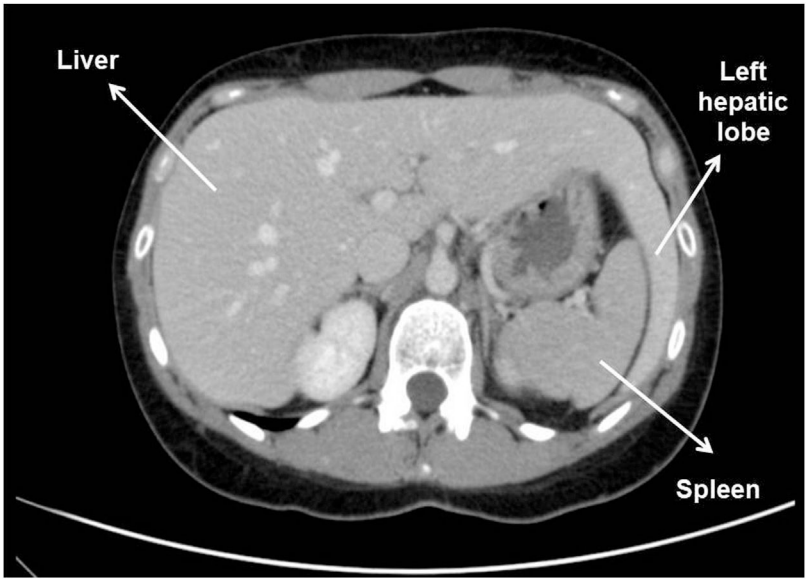

Figure 3 CT scan image. Left lobe extends laterally to contact and enclose the spleen.

splenic parenchyma; in addition, the area showed washout with respect to the splenic surface in very late venous phase (Fig. 2).

Finally, the dependence of this crescentic image on the hepatic parenchyma was appreciated, being in fact a prolongation of the same (left hepatic lobe) (Fig. 3), confirming by CT scan the variant of normality known as beaver tail liver, a rare hepatic shape with no pathological implications.[1,2]

It is important to know the possible variants of normality to avoid erroneous interpretations of the imaging tests. Also, the case shows the usefulness of intravenous contrast

to increase the characterization capability of B-mode ultrasound.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare they have no conflicts of interest.

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