
Case Reports

Hydatid Cyst of Heart and Mediastinum: Report of Three Cases

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Abstract

We describe three cases of hydatid cyst of the heart. The first patient was a 46-year-old man who was found to have a systolic murmur on routine physical examination and echocardiography showed an interventricular cyst. He was operated on and recovered uneventfully.

The second patient was a 55-year-old woman with a hydatid cyst of the interventricular septum, which was diagnosed by echocardiography. The cyst was resected surgically. She developed complete heart block after surgery, which was managed by an epicardial pacemaker.

The third patient was a 15-year-old girl who was diagnosed with a large hydatid cyst of the left ventricle by echocardiography, but during the operation in addition to the left ventricular cyst a mediastinal cyst was found in the left side of the inferior vena cava. Both cysts were resected surgically and the patient recovered without any complication (*Iranian Heart Journal 2006; 7 (3):52-55*).

Key words: cardiac hydatid cyst ■ cardiac cyst ■ cardiac echinococcosis

Echinococcosis is an infection caused in humans by the larval stage of *Echinococcus granulosus*, *E. multilocularis*, or *E. vogeli*.¹ It has two forms: hydatid or unilocular cyst disease, caused by *Echinococcus granulosus* or *E. vogeli*, and alveolar cyst disease caused by *Echinococcus multilocularis*.² *E. granulosus* is prevalent in areas where livestock is raised in association with dogs.¹ This tapeworm species is found in Australia, Argentina, Chile, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, New Zealand, and the Mediterranean region.¹

The hydatid cysts of *Echinococcus granulosus* tend to form in the liver (50% to 70% of patients) or lung (20% to 30%) but may be found in any organ of the body, including brain, heart, and bones (less than 10%).²

Hydatid cysts contain a germinal layer that allows asexual budding to form daughter cysts within the primary cyst (Fig. 1).

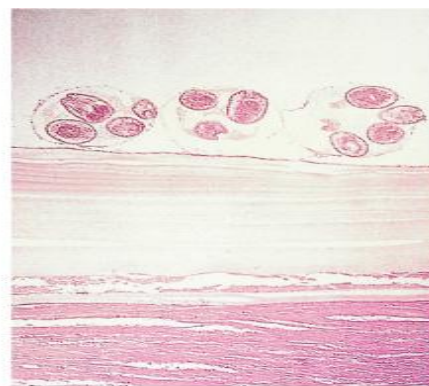


Fig. 1: Daughter cyst formation from the germinal membrane of a hydatid cyst. (From Ash LR, Orihel TC. *Atlas of Human Parasitology*. 3rd ed. Chicago: ASCP; 1990).¹⁴