CASE REPORTS

Fasciola Gigantica in Gall Bladder

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Abstract

A case of Fasciola gigantica recovered from the gall bladder has been reported. The pre-operative diagnosis was chronic cholecystitis and the discovery of fluke in the resected gall bladder was unexpected.

Key words: Fasciola gigantica.

Introduction

Though fascioliasis, a disease of herbivores, has been reported sporadically throughout the world there is no case reported from India. Also, surgical recovery of the adult fluke from the extra-hepatic bile passages is not very common. A case with Fasciola gigantica recovered from the gall bladder is reported.

Case Report

A 40 year old female resident of Saharanpur district (UP) was admitted to the hospital with a history of recurrent episodes of biliary colics of one year duration. The first episode was associated with cholangitis and jaundice. Clinical examination was essentially normal. Haemogram, urine examination and liver function tests were normal. Ultrasound examination revealed a thickened gall bladder wall without any stones. Oral cholecystography showed non-functioning gall bladder. She was diagnosed as having chronic cholecystitis and was subjected to surgery. At laparotomy, the gall bladder was found to be distended, thick walled, opaque and non-compressible. The liver and other viscera were normal. The common bile duct was 6 mm in diameter, thick walled, opaque, with evidence of perihepatitis. Cholecystectomy was performed and a dead liver fluke was discovered lying free within the gall bladder lumen (Fig). No fluke was discovered in the bile ducts or cholecystectomy. Bile from the gall bladder and bile duct did not show any ova of liver fluke. Histopathological examination of the gall bladder showed changes of chronic cholecystitis.

She has been asymptomatic for the last 7 months.

Discussion

Human fascioliasis is uncommon and though cases of Fasciola hepatica producing obstruction of the common bile duct have been reported, the presence of liver fluke in the gall bladder is extremely rare. Cases with Fasciola gigantica lying free in the gall bladder have not been reported earlier.

Fasciola gigantica is larger (5 cm) and more lanceolate than Fasciola hepatica, has a shorter cephalic cone,

Fig: Fasciola gigantica recovered from the gall bladder.

a large ventral sucker, a more anterior position of the testes and larger eggs (160 to 190 \( \mu \)m by 70 to 90 \( \mu \)m).4

The probable mode of infection in the present patient appears to be the intake of fresh vegetable contaminated with metacecariae of Fasciola gigantica.

References


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