SILENT COLON CARCINOMA PRESENTING AS A HEPATIC ABSCESS

Andrea Giuliani, Alessandro Caporale, Martino Demoro, Michele Scimò, Francesca Galati, and Gaspare Galati

Department of Surgery “Pietro Valdoni”, Policlinico Umberto I, La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy

Penetration and abscess formation in an adjacent parenchymal organ as presentation of a colon cancer is very uncommon. We report a rare case of pyogenic liver abscess as the first manifestation of an infiltrative and penetrating hepatic flexure colon carcinoma without liver metastases. A 50-year-old woman was admitted with right abdominal pain, fever and chills. The initial diagnosis was a pyogenic liver abscess. Subsequent CT scan and colonoscopy evidenced a hepatic flexure colon cancer abscessed within segment 6 of the liver. Eight months after a right colectomy and liver resection there was no evidence of disease. The occurrence of a pyogenic liver abscess should raise the suspicion of a silent colon cancer.

Key words: colorectal cancer, pyogenic liver abscess.