

HYDATID CYSTS: ONE DISEASE, MULTIPLE FACES!

M. Gargouri¹, M. Koubaa¹, Y. Krichen², C. Marrakchi¹, M. Turki², M. Ben Jemaa¹

1. Department of Infectious diseases, Hedi Chaker University Hospital, Sfax, Tunisia

2. Department of Pharmacy, Hedi Chaker University Hospital, Sfax, Tunisia

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

- Hydatid cysts are caused by the larvae of a tapeworm named *Echinococcus granulosus*.
- It is a worldwide parasitic infection and it remains endemic in Tunisia especially in sheep farming areas.
- Although it is qualified as benign, hydatid disease is a serious and potentially fatal condition.
- We aim to determine the clinical and biological features as well as therapeutic options of hydatid cysts.

METHODS

- Through a retrospective study (1990-2016), all patients infected with *Echinococcus granulosus* and who were admitted in the Department of Infectious Diseases were enrolled.
- We reviewed their clinical and laboratory data as well as outcome issues.

RESULTS

- We gathered 50 patients who were predominantly men with SR of 1.5
- Mean age = 40.7 ± 17 years
- Rural area living = 82%.
- Contact with animals = 58%.
- Clinical signs are mainly related to a mass lesion (Table I).

Table I : Clinical features of patients with hydatid cysts

Symptoms	Number (%)
Fever 38°C	25 (50)
Abdominal pain	16 (32)
Vomiting	10 (20)
Thoracic pain	8 (16)

RESULTS

- E. granulosus* cysts occur mainly in the liver (74%) and the lungs (32%). Other organs were involved (Figure 1).
- Multiple cysts were found in 88% of cases (Figure 2).

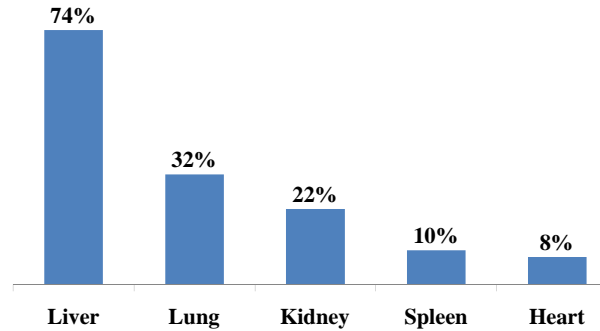


Figure 1 : Distribution of patients according the location of hydatid cysts.

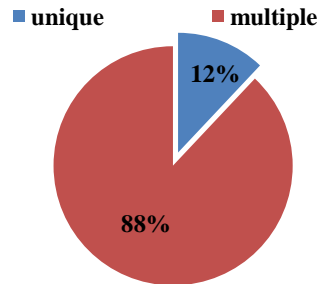


Figure 2 : Distribution of patients according the number of hydatid cysts.

RESULTS

- Laboratory findings included leukocytosis (42%), anemia (38%) and liver cytolysis (20%).
- A specific treatment with **Albendazole** was used in nearly 62% (Figure 3). Mean duration of treatment was 5 months
- Referral to surgery was needed in 74% of patients (Figure 3).

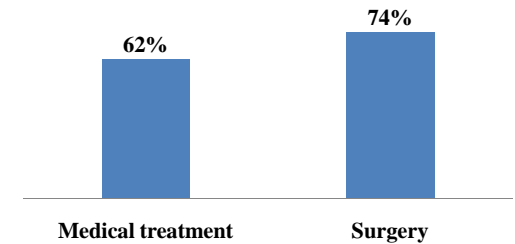


Figure 3: Therapeutic options of hydatid cysts.

RESULTS

- Favorable outcome **with healing** occurred in 44 cases (88%).
- There were 12% of relapses. No patient died.

CONCLUSION

- Hydatidosis remains a public health problem in endemic countries.
- It claims deep attention because of several clinical features and possibly severe complications.
- Early diagnosis, prompt treatment and preventive measures are cornerstones of favorable prognosis.

DISCLOSURES

- NONE