

Portal Cavernoma

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Picture Comment

A 60-years-old patient with a history of a rectal adenocarcinoma treated by chemotherapy, has developed a paraneoplastic portal thrombosis, known for a few months. The patient is referred to us for a thoraco-abdomino-pelvic computed tomography scan as part of his usual follow-up. It was noted a replacement of the portal vein by multiple serpiginous vascular structures compatible with a portal cavernoma, associated with a hypertrophy of the segment IV (FIG. 1).

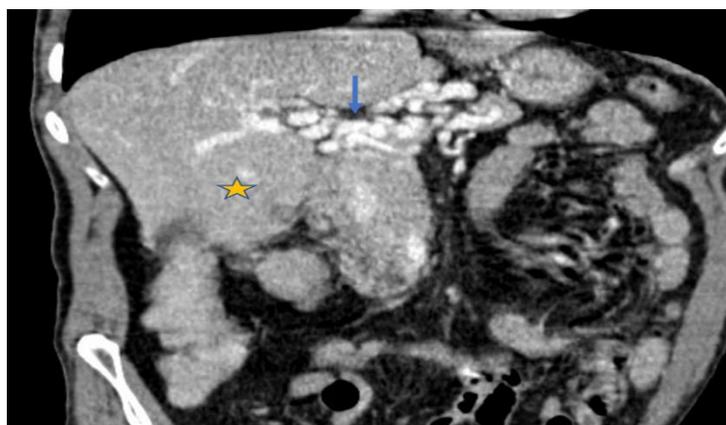


FIG. 1. Coronal CT scan, portal phase: replacement of the portal vein by multiple serpiginous vascular structures compatible with a portal cavernoma (blue arrow). It was associated with a hypertrophy of the segment IV (orange star).

Portal cavernoma occurs between 1 week to 1 year after a thrombosis of the portal vein if the latter is not revascularized. The collateral veins assuming the vascularization of the hepatic parenchyma expand and become serpiginous. It is associated with modifications in the shape of the liver, in particular an atrophy of the left lobe of the liver (segment II and III) and a hypertrophy of the segments IV and I.