

Soft Tissue Cysticercosis: Rare Image in the Developed World

Cisticercose dos Tecidos Moles: Imagem Rara no Mundo Desenvolvido



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Figure 1 – Thorax radiography showing oval subcutaneous tissue calcified lesions

Cysticercosis is a parasitic tissue infection caused by *Taenia solium* (Ts) in the form of cysticerci (larval cysts).^{1,2} The ingestion of TS eggs in contaminated foods and drinks, or by self-inoculation, disseminates virtually to all tissues, evolving to cysticerci.¹⁻⁵

Authors report a case of a 74 year-old-woman, raw pork meat consumer, whose thorax radiography showed oval soft tissue calcified lesions (Fig. 1), also seen in thoraco-abdominal computed tomography (CT) scan (Fig. 2). Clinical examination, cardiac and laboratory exams were unremarkable. Ophthalmologic observation was normal and CT scan didn't reveal neurocysticercosis. Since there were no

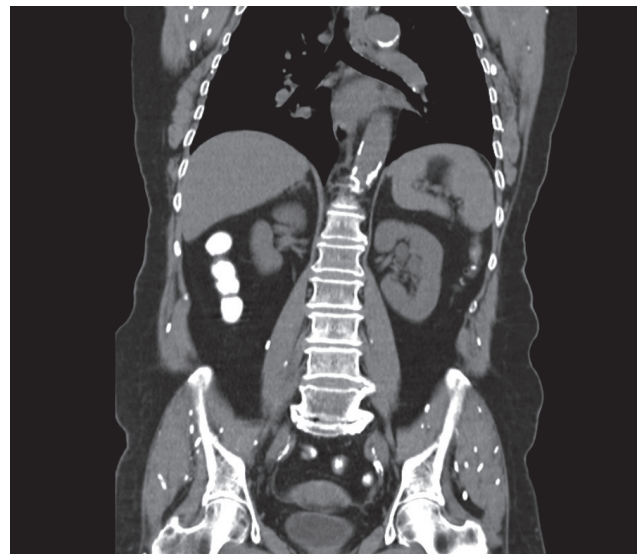


Figure 2 – Thoraco-abdominal computed tomography scan showing numerous oval calcifications distributed along the muscular fibers

clinical manifestations, despite the exuberant calcified soft tissue cysticercosis, no treatment was performed and the patient remains asymptomatic.

Isolated subcutaneous tissue involvement is rare and usually asymptomatic. Nevertheless, the differential diagnosis may sometimes include infective, inflammatory and neoplastic lesions.^{3,4}

Diagnosis is based mostly on imaging, beyond serologic tests (low sensibility).⁵

Treatment depends on clinical manifestations, location, number, size, and cysticerci stage.⁵

PROTECTION OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS: The authors declare that the procedures were followed according to the regulations established by the Clinical Research and Ethics Committee and to the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association.

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