

Background

- Microbial contamination of the liver parenchyma leading to liver abscess can occur via the bile ducts or vessels or directly, by contiguity.
- In India, amoebiasis is endemic and amoebic liver abscess (ALA) is the most common extraintestinal site of involvement.
- The epidemiology and characteristics of ALA have changed and the distinguishing features between pyogenic and amoebic liver abscess are unclear.

Methods

- 32 consecutive patients presenting with liver abscess were included over a period of 18 months.
- Their demographic profile, comorbidities, characteristics of the abscesses on imaging (number, size, liquefaction, lobe involved, etc), complications, treatment given (both medical and interventional) were recorded.
- The abscess size was monitored by periodic sonography, both for liquification and response to therapy.

Table 1 : Showing demographic profile of the patients

Total: 32 Patients	Males: 26 (81.25%)	Females: 6 (18.75%)
Chronic Alcoholics: 6/32 (18.75%)		



Abstract QR Code

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Table 2: Comorbidities Distribution

Comorbidities:					
Only HT	1	CLD with CKD with DM with HT with CMV viremia	1	Abdominal Tuberculosis	1
DM+HT	2	HT+OA	1	DM with Pyelonephritis	1
Only DM	4	RVD	1	Nil	15 (46.87%)
CLD	2	Post KTR	1		
Carcinoma buccal mucosa	2	PTB with COVID 19	1		
DM : diabetes mellitus HT : hypertension		CMV : cytomegalovirus OA : osteoarthritis		CLD : chronic liver disease CKD : chronic kidney disease	
				RVD : retroviral disease KTR : kidney transplant	
• One patient was detected to be HBsAg positive					

Results

Table 3 : Showing the characteristics of the liver abscesses and complications

Type of abscess			
a) Amoebic :	29/32 (90.63%)	b) Pyogenic :	2/32 (6.25%)
		c) Cholangitic :	1/32 (3.125%)
Number of abscesses			
a) Single :	20/32 (62.5%)	b) Two :	9/32 (28.125%)
		c) Four :	3/32 (9.375%)
Lobes Involved			
a) Right :	46/50 (92 %)	b) Left :	4/50 (8 %)
Size of the abscesses : (Out of 50 abscesses)			
a) <5 cms :	16/50 (32%)	b) 5-10 cms :	29/50 (58%)
		c) 10-15 cms :	5/50 (10%)
Local Complications			
Rupture : 11/32 (34.375%)			
a) Perihepatic region :	8/32 (25%)	b) Right pleural cavity :	3/32 (9.375%)
Laboratory Investigations :			
Raised bilirubin :	11/32 (34.375%)	Raised Alkaline phosphatase :	24/32 (75%)
		Raised IHA :	7/29 (24.14%)
		Raised WBC :	21/32 (65.63%)
•IHA : Indirect haemagglutination		•One patient of chronic liver disease had inferior vena cava thrombus	
•50 abscesses were present in 32 patients ; Both sonography and CT abdomen were performed		•Risk factors for rupture were large and multiple abscesses	
•Fever and right hypochondrial pain were the commonest complaints		•Majority of the abscesses were unliquified or partially liquified at presentation	
•Jaundice was associated with large and multiple abscesses		•All underwent percutaneous catheter drainage, after liquification	
•The pyogenic abscesses grew Enterobacter and proteus mirabilis		•Stool examination did not reveal cysts or trophozoites in any of the patients	
•None of the patients had any systemic complications			

- A male preponderance was observed. 50 abscesses were noted in the 32 patients. 29 patients (90.63%) had ALA, 2 pyogenic (6.25%) and 1 cholangitic (3.125%).

- Fever and RHC pain were common complaints. Chronic diarrhoea was noted in only 4 (12.5%) patients.
- 92% were in the right lobe. Majority were unliquified / partially liquified at presentation. All underwent percutaneous drainage. 11 (34.375%) had rupture, with majority (25%) being in the perihepatic space.
- All ALA were treated with IV metronidazole for 3-4 weeks and a luminal amoebicide with a good response. Only 2 patients expired, due to their comorbidities.

Conclusion

- The traditional belief that amoebiasis causes solitary abscess and bacteria cause multiple abscesses does not hold true anymore.
- Leucocytosis is seen with ALA too.
- Alcoholism and underlying comorbidities are not prerequisites for developing liver abscess.
- A combination of medical and interventional therapy produces good results, even with multiple abscesses.

References

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