

Case report: Fat-containing liver metastases from retroperitoneal liposarcoma

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Case History

A 54-year-old man, treated in the past for retroperitoneal liposarcoma, came for a follow-up CT scan. He had been operated upon for this condition in December 2000 and again, for a recurrence, in May 2004. On both occasions, imaging had shown a normal liver [Figure 1].

A contrast-enhanced CT scan of the abdomen showed a large 14 × 12 cm mass in the retroperitoneum with heterogeneous attenuation [Figure 2]. This was suggestive of a recurrent liposarcoma. There were multiple focal hypodense lesions

showing fat attenuation (–30 to –70 HU) in both lobes of the liver, without enhancement [Figure 3]. USG-guided fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) showed features consistent with metastatic sarcoma.

Discussion

Liposarcoma is a malignant mesenchymal tumor which most often occurs in the fifth and sixth decades.^[1] It commonly occurs in the retroperitoneum or the lower limb. Less frequently, it can develop in the upper limb or in the head and neck region.^[2]

CT scan can suggest a diagnosis of liposarcoma when



Figure 1: Axial contrast-enhanced CT scan of the liver done in May 2004 shows absence of focal hepatic lesions



Figure 2: Axial contrast-enhanced CT scan shows a large, lobulated, heterogeneous mass in the left half of the retroperitoneum (arrow) with a fatty component posteriorly (arrowhead)

