

Recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma 12 years after the initial diagnosis

May 6 2010

A research team from Hong Kong presented an unusual patient with a solitary recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in the right kidney 12 years after the initial diagnosis. They illustrated the importance of considering late recurrence in patients with a history of HCC and the management of these metastases.

Hepatocellular [carcinoma](#) (HCC) is an aggressive tumor with poor long-term prognosis. The reported 5-year recurrence rate ranges from 75% to 100%. Therefore, extrahepatic metastasis of HCC is uncommon due to the highly malignant nature of the primary tumor. However, with advances in different treatment modalities for HCC, the incidence of extrahepatic metastasis appears to be increasing. Nevertheless, most recurrences occur relatively early after the initial diagnosis and treatment.

A research article to be published on May 7, 2010 in the [World Journal of Gastroenterology](#) addresses this question.

The research team from Hong Kong reported a patient who presented with a renal tumor 12 years after the initial treatment of primary HCC, which turned out to be a solitary recurrence of the initial HCC.

The case illustrated that, in managing patients with a past history of HCC who present with new mass lesions, the diagnosis of extra-hepatic metastasis should always be suspected. Although the final treatment might not be altered, the diagnosis of metastatic HCC would allow better

surgical planning and counseling for the patient.

More information: Wong TCL, To KF, Hou SSM, Yip SKH, Ng CF. Late retroperitoneal recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma 12 years after initial diagnosis. World J Gastroenterol 2010; 16(17): 2187-2189. www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v16/i17/2187.htm

Provided by World Journal of Gastroenterology

Citation: Recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma 12 years after the initial diagnosis (2010, May 6) retrieved 21 November 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2010-05-recurrence-hepatocellular-carcinoma-years-diagnosis.html>

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