Reviewer's report

Title: A small solitary non-parasitic hepatic cyst causing an intrahepatic bile duct stricture: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 18 February 2010

Reviewer: Riccardo Superina

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: No

Is this case worth reporting?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This case illustrates how a small benign cyst can present in an unusual way by causing a major bile duct obstruction. A 70 year old man presented with abdominal pain and elevated liver function tests and this led to the discovery of dilated left sided bile ducts. The surgeons performed a left lobectomy on the assumption that the bile duct obstruction was secondary to a possible malignancy.

The obstruction was purported to be due to a small simple benign hepatic cyst 1 cm in diameter. The authors’ point is that even small benign cysts can cause symptoms if strategically positioned.

In retrospect the authors point out that the cyst was evident on the CT done as part of the investigation.
One wonders what the authors would have done had they known there was a small cyst. They do not discuss alternative treatments. Even though the patient recovered, had they to do it all over again, would they do the same things.

I think that an MR would have been a better modality for imaging. At the operation, a choledochoscope could have been used to look at the duct. Intraoperative US may have been helpful. Realistically, aspiration of the cyst may have been all that was required.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests