

Clinical-Medical Image

Porcelain Gallbladder

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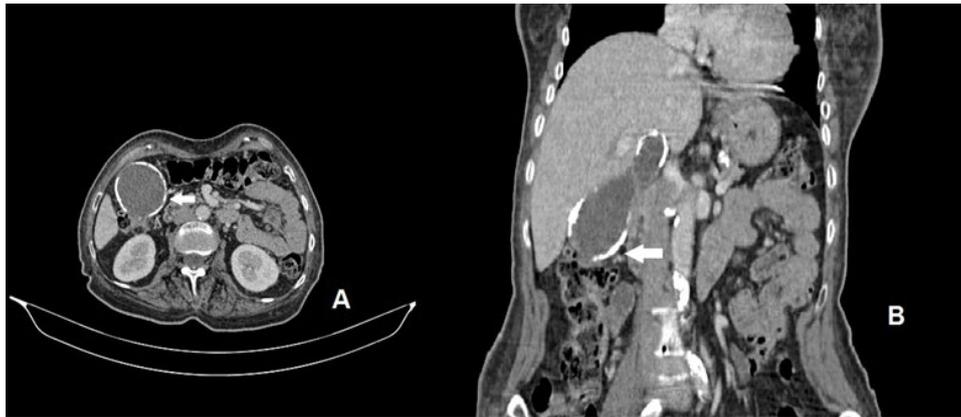


Figure 1: Axial-CT (A) section and coronal reconstruction (B) without contrast injection show a calcified thin and uniform band of gallbladder wall believed to be brought on by excessive gallstones defined as porcelain wall gallbladder.

Clinical Image

Porcelain gallbladder is a rare chronic disease seen more commonly in females with obesity and associated to a diagnostic age range between 38 and 70 years. Histologically it is due to dense hyaline fibrosis transforming gallbladder wall into relatively thin and uniform band also called hyalinizing cholecystitis. Its cause is unknown, but different predisposing factors contribute to the gallbladder becoming a porcelain-like vessel, mainly the cycling of cholesterol, hormonal factors, and infections. Most common symptoms are abdominal pain, jaundice and vomiting. The main differential diagnosis is gallbladder adenocarcinoma which is associated in 20% to porcelain gallbladder. CT scan is generally used for confirmation of the diagnosis, it commonly shows thin layer of mineralization that outlines the wall of gallbladder (Figures 1A and 1B), it is also necessary to stage the gallbladder carcinoma. The course of treatment for the porcelain gallbladder is the complete removal, due to the increased risk for gallbladder cancer.

Keywords: Porcelain gallbladder; CT

Declaration of Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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