

Clinical-Medical Image

The Mercedes Benz Sign: An Indicator of Gallstones

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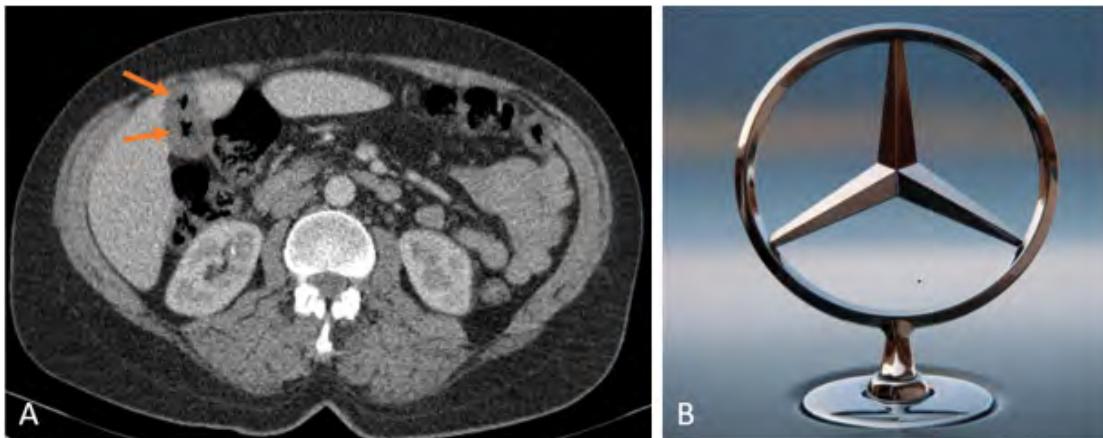


Figure 1: (A) Axial abdominal CT scan in portal phase showing a star-shaped pattern of air inside the gallbladder (orange arrows) corresponding to the Mercedes-Benz sign, related to the presence of gallstones; (B) Mercedes-Benz logo.



Figure 2: Abdominal ultrasound: Presence of multiple hyperechoic formations (blue arrow) with posterior acoustic shadow (black arrows) related to gallstones.

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There are two types of gallstones: Pigment stones which are predominantly calcified and appear hyperdense on CT and cholesterol stones which are not visible on CT because they are embedded in bile overloaded with cholesterol. Less than half of these stones contain gas which can diffuse outside the stones in case of a cracking of the latter. This gas will then be the only indicator of the gallstones. This was the case of this 47-year-old patient, with a history of a breast cancer who was referred to our department for a thoraco-abdomino-pelvic CT as part of her usual follow-up. A presence air in a star-shaped pattern was noted in his gallbladder, corresponding to the Mercedes-Benz sign (Figure 1). The ultrasound supplement performed confirmed that it was indeed stones in the gallbladder (Figure 2).

Keywords: Mercedes Benz sign; Gallstones; CT scan

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