Clinical-Medical Image

The Starry Sky Sign: An Indicator of Von Meyenburg Complexes

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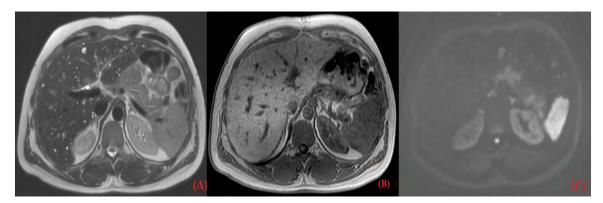


Figure 1: Hepatic MRI showing multiple millimetric cystic formations in hyper T2 signal (A), hypo signal T1 (B) and diffusion (C) without communication between the cystic lesions and the bile ducts.

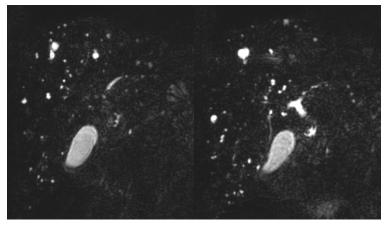


Figure 2: Bili-IRM showing scattered cystic hepatic lesions realizing the starry sky sign.

Clinical Image

The von Meyenburg complexes or biliary micro-hamartomas were first described in 1918 by Von Meyenburg. They are rare <1% of congenital origin, related to the dilated lumen ducts containing biliary thrombosis, surrounded by hyalinized fibrous tissue with no connection to the excretory biliary system. They correspond to several biliary micro-hamartomas of 1 mm to 4 mm often with sub capsular localization. These lesions are asymptomatic, often discovered accidentally in a carcinological context, during an ultrasound (snowstorm sign) or abdominal scan that may be taken for hepatic metastases. Hepatic MRI (BILI-MRI) is the reference test to differentiate these lesions from hepatic metastases (hyper signal diffusion). They appear as multiple millimetric cystic formations scattered throughout the hepatic parenchyma, well delineated, in hyper signal T2, hypo signal diffusion, achieving the starry sky sign on the Bili-IRM sequences without communication between the cystic lesions and the bile ducts (Figures 1 and 2).

Keywords: Hepatic; Micro cysts; Multiples

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