

CONSERVATIVE SURGERY THROUGH OBLITERATION OF PERICYSTIC CAVITY AND OMENTOPLASTY IN HYDATID DISEASE OF LIVER. Khan, S.H. and Khaliq, T. J. Pak. Instt. Med. Sc., 1990; 1: 25-26.

Ten patients with hepatic hydatid disease were subjected to surgery. They ranged in age from 30 to 60 years and there were 7 females and 3 males. The most common symptom was pain and discomfort in the right hypochondrium. Diagnosis was confirmed by ultrasonography, isotope hepatic scan and serology. CT scan was done in one case. 7 cases had the cyst in the right lobe of the liver, 2 in the left lobe and one had multiple cysts. 9 cases had a positive complement fixation serological test.

The patients were treated either by simple enuclea-

tion or enucleation and omentoplasty. The former technique caused a hospital stay of an average of 16 days. 3 cases had bile leaks closing spontaneously. 2 patients had gross wound sepsis requiring drainage and secondary suturing. 4 cases had infection along the drain and one developed cholangitis requiring antibiotics.

The second group of cases undergoing enucleation and omentoplasty had a small bile leak and one had a wound infection which was treated with antibiotics.

Large hydatid cysts of the liver require surgical treatment. The presented series of cases were managed by omentoplasty and marsupialization. The technique omentoplasty reduced the hospital stay and incidence of biliary fistula.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TRACTOR INJURIES: ARE THEY ALWAYS FARM RELATED?

Madam, The role of machinery, especially that of tractors, as a leading cause of farm-related injuries has been well documented by many authors¹⁻³. In most of these reports, injuries have occurred in children while performing farm chores, due to lack of supervision. We want to notify a different way of tractor injury taking place not in farms, but mostly on roads and streets.

Tractor accidents account for 14% of our childhood trauma cases. Their mean PTS (pediatric trauma score) is around 8.5 and mortality in tractor injuries is approximately 8%. Those figures may not be surprising for Turkey, as a developing country where most of the population deals with farming. But unacceptable is that, besides, farm-related works, tractors are frequently used as transport vehicles on streets and roads even in heavy traffic, especially in summer and fall. With or without a trailer, they are mostly overcrowded and driven full speed by an excited young man who is not used to, and occasionally unlicensed to drive in road traffic. Injuries occur by falling off or being rolled over by the tractor, where the latter has an increased mortality.

Prevention of those unacceptable injuries needs to be emphasized by legislators, educators and communication media as well as physicians. The laws allowing the tractors to transport people should be reexamined. Alternative transport vehicles should be provided to farm workers especially in summer and fall. Farm workers should be instructed about the danger of transporting on a tractor and be emphasized about safety habits and first aid precautions.

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