



The hydatid liver disease is caused by an infection with echinococcus which includes six species of cyclophyllid tapeworms of the family Taeniidae. The two major species of medical and public health importance are echinococcus granulosus and echinococcus multilocularis, which cause cystic echinococcosis and alveolar echinococcosis, respectively. Both are serious and severe diseases, the latter especially so, with high fatality rates and poor prognosis if managed incorrectly<sup>2</sup>. Age-specific prevalence of liver and pulmonary hydatid cysts increases with advancing age, indicating that new infections continue to occur throughout life. A study in Uruguay showed an overall prevalence of 5.6 percent, increasing from 1.1 percent in those aged four to six years > 11 percent in those over the age of 60 years.<sup>3</sup>

prevalence is underestimated in many series because systematic population surveys are not performed in all endemic areas. Recurrence of the disease and its diagnosis are relatively new areas of investigation due to the limited number of cases.<sup>4</sup> In the United States, most cases are seen in immigrants from endemic countries, but transmission does occur in certain states, including California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Alaska.<sup>1</sup> The primary carriers are dogs and wolves. The intermediate hosts are sheep, cattle, and deer. Humans are Alternative/accidental secondary hosts and are infected by ingestion of ova from the feces of dogs.<sup>5</sup>

Echinococcosis is a zoonotic disease that mainly occurs in sheep-grazing areas. The overall

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### **Selected Differential Diagnosis of liver cysts**

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<i>Condition</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
Simple solitary cyst	cystic formations containing clear fluid that do not communicate with the intrahepatic biliary tree. more prevalent in women. well-demarcated water attenuation lesion that does not enhance following the administration of intravenous contrast
Polycystic disease	
Parasitic - hydatid cyst	
Neoplastic -	
Primary - Cystadenoma , cystadenocarcinoma , squamous cell carcinoma	
Secondary - Carcinoma of ovary , pancreas , colon , kidney , neuroendocrine	
False cysts	

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E. granulosus infection of the liver frequently produces no symptoms as indicated above. The right lobe is affected in 60 to 85 percent of cases. E. granulosus cysts can rupture into the biliary tree and cause biliary colic, obstructive jaundice, cholangitis, or pancreatitis.

Surgery is a controversial alternative, but if needed, total pericystectomy without opening the cyst cavity, preceded by pre-operative albendazole therapy is the method of choice for hepatic hydatid cyst treatment.<sup>6</sup>

## REFERENCES

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