

Chronic liver fluke disease with dyspepsia: a case report

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BACKGROUND: Chronic liver fluke disease with dyspepsia is rarely seen clinically. In this study, we assessed the etiological factors, symptoms, physical signs and diadynamic methods in a case of chronic liver fluke disease with dyspepsia.

METHODS: Physical examination, laboratory studies, ultrasonography and CT scan were performed before pathogen examination. The eggs of fluke found with the inverted sedimentation method were also observed under a microscopy. They were diagnosed as the eggs of *Clonorchis sinensis*.

RESULTS: The patient was diagnosed as having chronic liver fluke disease, and his appetite recovered after three courses of treatment with praziquantel.

CONCLUSION: Eating fresh fish and shrimp might cause liver fluke disease. The symptoms of this disease with dyspepsia can be anorexia, abdominal distention, bellyache, and loose stools.

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KEY WORDS: liver fluke disease; dyspepsia

Introduction

Chronic liver fluke disease is caused by *Clonorchis sinensis*, and is a familiar disease in the world. It can cause gall-stone, cholecystitis, cholangitis, obstruction of the bile duct, pancreatitis, urticaria, and even liver cancer and adenocarcinoma of the pancreas.^[1-8] Clinically, this disease often causes hepatitis, angiocholecystitis, cirrhosis of the liver, which are of absence of symptoms. In this report, we describe a case of chronic liver fluke disease with a few symptoms of dyspepsia.^[9,10]

Case report

A 46-year-old man was hospitalized because of anorexia, abdominal distention, bellyache and loose stools for many years. The patient recalled that his colleagues in army had infected liver fluke after eating fresh fish and shrimp when he was in military service in Guangdong Province 22 years ago. Physical examination revealed that his body temperature was 37.5 °C, pulse was 88 times/min, and BP was 10.6 mmHg. The liver was mildly enlarged and hepatic region showed obvious tenderness. Laboratory results included WBC $24 \times 10^9/L$, trophic granulocyte 0.65, lymphocyte 0.28, and eosinophil 0.07. HAV-IgM and HBsAg were all negative, GPT was 42.5 U/L, and total bilirubin was 14.3 $\mu\text{mol/L}$. Ultrasonography showed tumefied liver, dense and asymmetric smudge, slightly outstretched small bile ducts, thicker dissepiment, enhanced echo, outstretched bile ducts with spot, plaque and line echoes, thick and rough wall of cholecyst, and bar or plaque echoes. CT demonstrated that the bile ducts in the liver were outstretched slightly and diffuse, and that cholecyst and pancreatic ducts were normal. Filemot and sesamoid eggs were found by the inverted sedimentation method in the stool in three days. Microscopy showed that the anterior extremity of the egg had a small cap, the shell of egg beside the cap was protuberant slightly, the posterior extremity of the egg was obtuse, and the distal end had a verrucous protuberance. These characteristics were consistent with those of the egg of *Clonorchis sinensis*. The patient was diagnosed as having chronic liver fluke disease. The appetite of the patient recovered basically after three courses of treatment with praziquantel.^[11,12] The patient had no obvious ill response in follow-up for two months.

Discussion

The symptoms of chronic liver fluke disease are complex. Clinically, chronic liver fluke disease can cause hepatitis, dyspepsia, angiocholecystitis, paraneurasthenia, cirrhosis of the liver and paranosoma, even no symptoms at all. Although the patient had the symptoms of emaciation, anorexia and abdominal discomfort, his HAV-IgM and HBsAg were all negative, cholecyst and

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pancreatic ducts were normal, and stool examination showed positive results. The disease was diagnosed as chronic liver fluke disease with dyspepsia. The appetite of the patient recovered basically after treatment of praziquantel. This disease supposed to be related to eating fresh fish and shrimp 22 years ago.

Competing interest

The author or authors do not choose to respond to the statements listed in Instructions for Authors.

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