Vertebral Hydatidosis: An Uncommon Cause of Low Back Pain
Hidatidose Vertebral: Uma Causa Incomum de Dor Lombar

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Palavras-chave: Doenças da Coluna Vertebral; Dor Lombar/etiologia; Echinococcus granulosus; Equinococose/complicações.

A 60-year-old woman presented with severe low back pain radiating to the right lower limb, associated with difficulty maintaining an upright posture, and unresponsive to analgesic treatment. Her medical history was significant for lung surgery performed 30 years prior due to a hydatid cyst.

Physical examination revealed postural flexion secondary to dorsolumbar neuropathic pain. Laboratory tests were unremarkable, and serological testing was positive for *Echinococcus* IgG antibodies. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) identified a multiseptated cystic mass in the right paravertebral region at the D11–D12 vertebral level (Fig. 1). Bone destruction was noted on the lateral aspect of the vertebral bodies, vertebral arch, and costovertebral joints. A body computed tomography (CT) scan excluded additional cystic lesions.

Treatment with albendazole led to significant pain reduction. The patient was referred for neurosurgical evaluation and is awaiting surgical resection.

Cystic hydatidosis, caused by *Echinococcus granulosus*, is a parasitic infection in which humans are incidental hosts. While the liver and lungs are most commonly affected, the central nervous system and bones can also be involved. The disease often remains asymptomatic for many years until cysts grow large enough to cause symptoms.[1]

Vertebral hydatid cysts are rare, accounting for less than 1% of echinococcosis cases.[2] Involvement of the spine may lead to neural compression, resulting in neurological deficits. Diagnosis relies on imaging and serological testing. Surgical resection remains the mainstay of treatment, typically combined with antiparasitic therapy.[3]

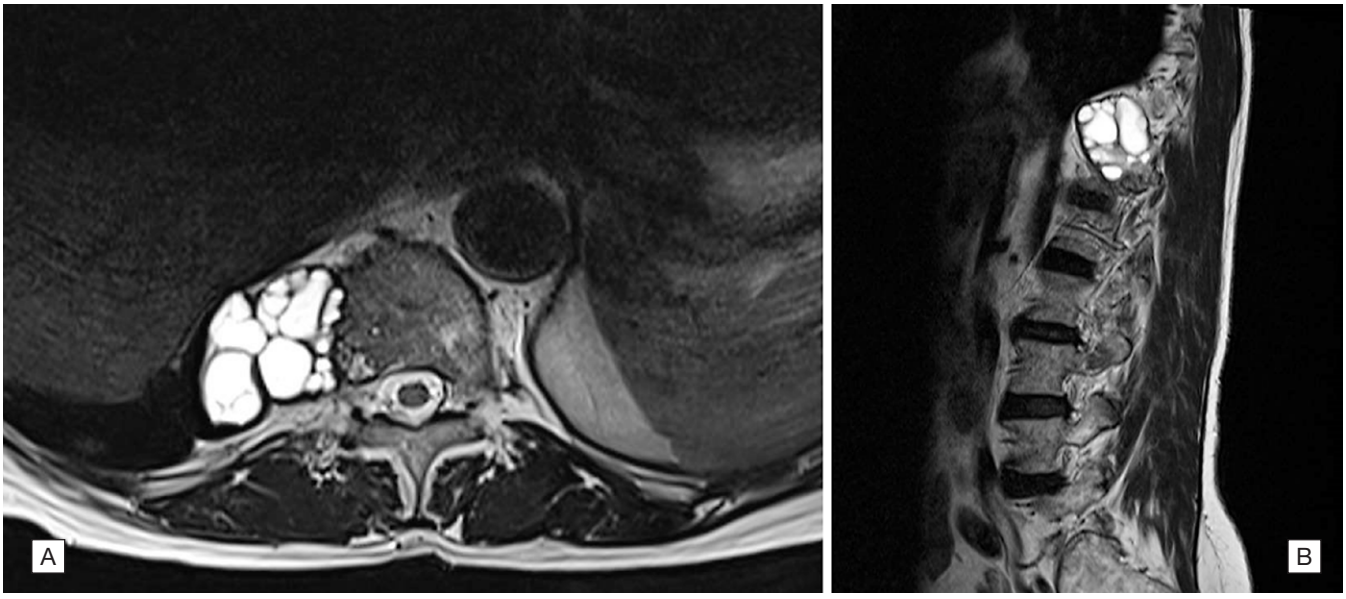

Figure 1: T2-weighted gadobutrol-enhanced MRI showing multiloculated paravertebral cysts on the right at the level of D11 and D12. **[A]** - Axial view; **[B]** - Sagittal view.

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