

## Clinical Image

# Appendicular Hydatid Cyst: A Rare and Challenging Diagnosis

Mohamed Dheker Touati<sup>\*</sup>, Wael Farjaoui, Behi Hager and Mohamed Bechir Ben Khalifa

Department of General Surgery, The Military Hospital of Tunis, University of Tunis el Manar, Tunisia

## Clinical Image

We present a case involving a 54-year-old patient residing in a rural area, with no prior medical history, who sought medical attention due to right iliac fossa pain. Upon clinical examination, tenderness was noted in the hypo gastric region and the right iliac fossa, and the patient had no fever. Laboratory results indicated evidence of a biological inflammatory response. An abdominal ultrasound confirmed the diagnosis of acute appendicitis, prompting the decision for surgical intervention. Subsequently, surgical exploration revealed an inflamed and swollen appendix accompanied by a 3 cm cyst (Figure 1) along its longitudinal axis. A cyst resection and appendectomy were performed. Postoperative recovery was uneventful. The histopathological analysis favored an appendicular hydatid cyst. A thoraco-abdomino-pelvic CT scan conducted to search for other hydatid cyst localizations yielded negative results. The patient remained recurrence-free throughout one year of follow-up.

Hydatid cysts most commonly occur in the liver, with less frequent intraabdominal occurrences [1]. The presence of an appendicular hydatid cyst is exceedingly rare, even in endemic areas such as Tunisia. It is often a result of ectopic migration from another site [2]. This condition can mimic various pathologies, manifesting with diverse clinical and radiological features. In our case, the diagnosis of an appendicular hydatid cyst was confirmed intraoperatively, which can resemble the appearance of a solid tumor of the right ovary, appendiceal mucocele, or even an appendiceal tumor. Regarding treatment, surgical intervention is essential [3]. Ensuring non-ruptured cyst resection is crucial for complete removal.

In conclusion, appendicular hydatid cyst is a remarkably uncommon pathology, even in endemic regions. Its varied clinical and radiological presentation can imitate other abdominal conditions, posing diagnostic challenges. However, surgical management is imperative to achieve intact cyst removal. Early recognition of this condition is pivotal for appropriate treatment and to mitigate potential complications. Further studies and case reports are essential to deepen our understanding of this atypical ailment. Patient consent was obtained before publishing this report, and the research adheres to ethical and legal guidelines.

**Keywords:** Hydatid cyst; Appendicitis; Emergency; Surgery

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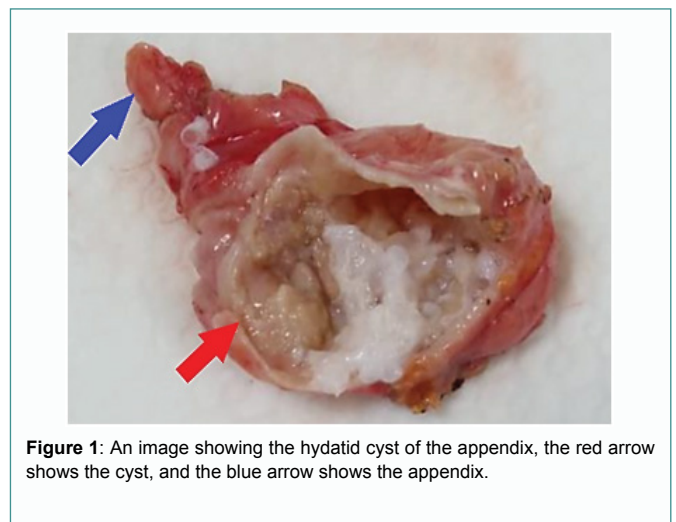
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**\*Corresponding author:** Mohamed Dheker Touati, Department of General Surgery, The Military Hospital of Tunis, Tunisia, Tel: +216-52929259



**Figure 1:** An image showing the hydatid cyst of the appendix, the red arrow shows the cyst, and the blue arrow shows the appendix.