Solitary pericardial hydatid cyst encompassing the heart

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Received 19 January 2012; received in revised form 12 March 2012; accepted 23 March 2012

Keywords: Hydatid disease • Pericardium • Computed tomography

A 56-year old lady presented with mild chest pain. The echocardiography revealed gross pericardial effusion. Repeated percutaneous aspirations were performed. Ultimately, computed tomography helped in reaching the diagnosis of pericardial hydatid disease (Fig. 1A). On operating, a single infected cyst was found encompassing the heart with multiple daughter cysts (Figs 1B and 2A–C).

Figure 1: (A) Multiple daughter cysts in the pericardium surrounding the heart. (B) The cyst entered when the pericardium was opened, draining the infected cyst fluid.

Figure 2: (A) Daughter cysts being taken out of the pericardial cavity. (B) Pericyst being separated from the epicardial fat. (C) Pericyst being separated from the pericardium.