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Selective intra-arterial embolization in benign liver tumors

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Introduction: Benign liver tumors occur frequently and often encountered incidentally. In most cases, they are accurately diagnosed by non-invasive radiologic imaging techniques. Most are asymptomatic, but some cause hepatomegaly, right upper quadrant discomfort, or intraperitoneal hemorrhage. Treatment is necessary only in a few specific circumstances.

Aim: The aim of this work is to present cases of symptomatic benign liver tumors diagnosed and treated with intra-arterial embolization before surgery.

Material & Methods: We present the cases of seven patients diagnosed with symptomatic benign liver tumors that required treatment: one focal nodular hyperplasia, two giant cavernous hemangiomas, one hepatic adenomatosis, and three hepatic adenomas. Once the feeding arteries were identified, tumors were embolized with polyvinyl alcohol particles (500 μm - 700 μm) and then the feeding artery was plugged with coils if there was an arterial pedicle to ensure the total vascular exclusion of the tumor. The surgical intervention took place four to seven days after embolization.


Results: All seven patients were women (age range, 23-74 years); presurgical intra-arterial embolization was done in six. In one patient with adenomatosis, embolization was done to control intraparenchymal hepatic hemorrhage. In the six patients who underwent surgery, the tumor was completely excised and no intraoperative bleeding events or postoperative complications occurred.

Conclusions: Provided there is a consensus among the multidisciplinary team, embolization is a useful option in the perioperative management of giant and/or symptomatic benign liver tumors.

Speaker Biography

Ferrer-Puchol is a Medical Doctor specialized in Interventional Radiology. She is from Valencia (Spain) and she is working at University Hospital in the Radiology Department. She has her expertise in intra-arterial embolization procedures and in intra-arterial treatments in Oncology field. She belongs to the Liver Tumors Committee for consensual decision making. In the teaching field, she is Tutor to the Radiology Residents conducting their research work. She has directed Doctoral theses and has published numerous scientific articles in the field of Interventional Radiology.

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