A giant hepatic mass of myeloid metaplasia in a patient without myelofibrosis

A 74-year old female patient was admitted to hospital in April 1995 because of abdominal discomfort. Physical examination was normal except for hepatomegaly. Complete blood counts, blood smear, liver function tests, coagulation studies, ESR, LDH, β_2-microglobulin, α-fetoprotein, CEA, and CA 15.3 were all within normal values.

An abdominal magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) study revealed a well-defined, solid, heterogeneous mass in the posterior segment of the right hepatic lobe with a posteroanterior diameter of 7.3 cm, a transverse diameter of 8.4 cm and a craniocaudal diameter of 8.5 cm. This mass was predominantly hyperintense in T2-weighted sequences (Figures 1a and 1b). Bone marrow trephine biopsy was normal without fibrosis. Biopsy of the mass disclosed foci of extramedullary hematopoiesis.[1]

The patient refused surgical removal of the mass so local radiotherapy was administered. A total dose of 2 Gy was given over a 4-week period in July 1995. At the moment, the patient remains asymptomatic, although the hepatic mass has grown in all three diameters, now being 11×9×13 cm.

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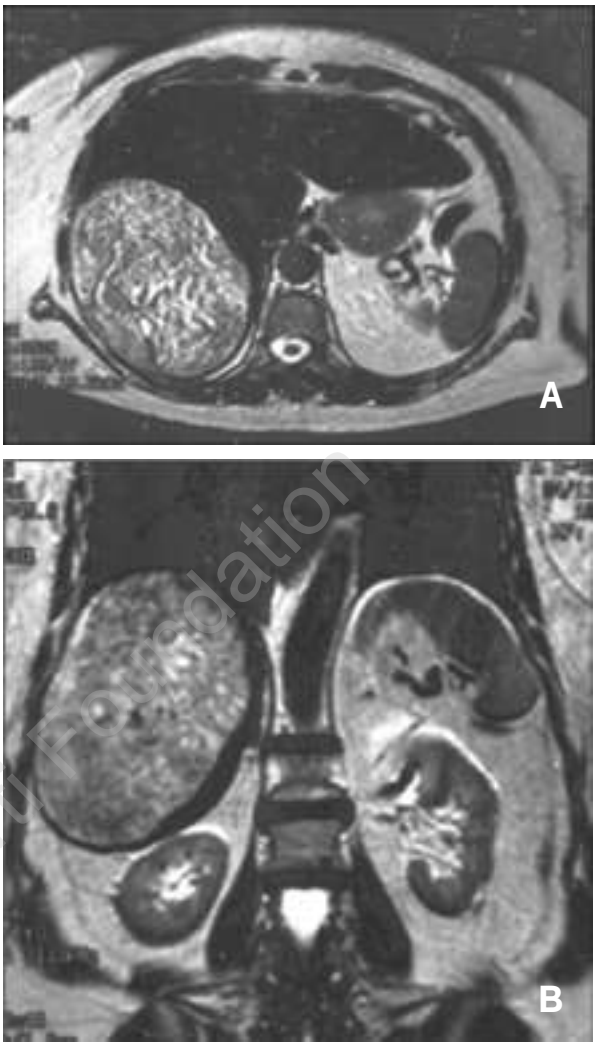

Figure 1.
A) A T2-weighted MRI image showing a giant hepatic mass placed in the right hepatic lobe in an axial slice.
B) A T2-weighted MRI image of a coronal slice of the mass.

References

1. Barosi G. Myelofibrosis with myeloid metaplasia: diagnostic definition and prognostic classification for clinical studies and treatment guidelines. J Clin Oncol 1999; 17:2954-70.