Multiple Intra-Abdominal Accessory Spleens

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Accessory spleens are congenital ectopic splenic tissue. Their most frequent location is perisplenic, postero-medial to the spleen. Usually, these features are clinically asymptomatic and discovered incidentally. A 56-year-old male was admitted for acute abdominal pain. His past medical history was unremarkable and no splenic injuries were reported. At physical examination,

no hepatosplenomegaly was found. All laboratory investigations were normal except for an asymptomatic thrombocytosis ($592 \times 10^9/l$, normal range 150–450). Ultrasound scan demonstrated cholelithiasis with multiple perisplenic masses. The latter were further investigated with contrast-enhanced computed tomography, and radiological findings were suggestive of multiple in-

Fig. 1. Contrast-enhanced computed tomogram demonstrating multiple splenic-like perisplenic masses.

Fig. 2. Intraoperative photograph of multiple well-margined, round masses during laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

Fig. 3. Whole-body scintigraphy with denatured red blood cells marked by technetium-99m: presence of multiple perisplenic and intra-abdominal hyperfixation without thoracic involvement. Anterior (**a**) and posterior (**b**) views.

tra-abdominal ectopic splenic tissue (fig. 1). An elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy with careful abdominal exploration was performed. Multiple well-demarcated spleens were found attached to the parietal and visceral peritoneum (fig. 2). Three of these were excised and histopathological examination confirmed normal splenic tissue. The postoperative course was uneventful and the patient discharged on the second day. Whole-body scin-

tigraphy was performed postoperatively for further thoracoabdominal exploration, and several abdominal high tracer uptakes were found (fig. 3). There were no thoracic lesions. This is the first, to the authors' knowledge, reported case of multiple ectopic intra-abdominal healthy spleen tissue localizations, in the absence of splenosis and polysplenia.