An uncommon cause of left upper abdominal pain

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Case study

A 22-year-old woman from North Africa was referred to the Emergency Department. She complained of left-sided abdominal pain that appeared three days before. She had no remarkable medical history except a full-term pregnancy with vaginal birth nine months before and she had not recently travelled.

Clinical examination revealed a soft abdomen with a localized tenderness in the left upper quadrant and perceptible splenomegaly. The patient had no fever. The initial laboratory test results were normal apart from thrombocytopenia (88,000 platelets/mm³). Biological tests showed no inflammation and results of liver function tests and lipase tests were normal. Urinalysis was negative.

Abdominal ultrasonography examination (Fig. 1) was first performed followed by a computed tomography (CT) examination of the abdomen and pelvis before and after intravenous administration of iodinated contrast material (Fig. 2).
What is your diagnosis?

On the basis of clinical and imaging findings, which diagnosis is the most plausible from among the following:
- splenic hydatid cyst;
- splenic epidermoid cyst;
- splenic pseudocyst;
- splenic cystic lymphangioma.

Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest concerning this article.