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THE ROLE OF ULTRASONOGRAPHY AND COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF SPLENIC LESIONS

Thesis

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of master degree in radio diagnosis

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

The spleen is the second largest organ in the reticloendothelial system. It lies in the left upper hypochondrium almost entirely surrounded by peritoneum. Two folds of the peritoneum hold the spleen in position insinuated between the left diaphragmatic dome, stomach, left kidney, pancreas and the splenic flexure of the colon. (Mclanchlan,J 1994)⁽¹⁾

Diagnosis of splenic lesion can be made easily by clinical examination when there is enlargement of the spleen but however not all types of pathology of the spleen associated with splenomegaly as there are many types of splenic affection without splenic enlargement (Sutton 1998)⁽²⁾

In the past years knowledge of the function of the spleen has been clusive. It was described as an organ of mystery because it is not necessary for life. Recently many functions were attributed to spleen like hematopoiesis, phagocytosis, storage, and processing of antigen and antibody production (Mclanchlan, J 1994)⁽¹⁾

Focal space occupying lesions in the spleen do not necessarily cause splenomegaly and they may cause vague symptoms. So they can be missed in clinical examination. Focal splenic lesions of the spleen may be due to trauma, vascular occlusion, inflammation, congenital or neoplastic lesion either primary or secondary. (Muir's 1997)⁽³⁾

Splenic imaging is essential for detection and assessment of the size, presence of focal lesion or not and number and nature of splenic focal lesion which is necessary for proper management. Plain film may has a limited role in the diagnosis of the splenic lesions except for calcification and gas distribution. (Joseph, J 1981) and (Bannister, LH et al 1995) (4) (5)

be helpful in detection of splenic lesions. Computed tomography also is play a helpful role in the diagnosis of the splenic lesions. Using of both ultrasonography and computed tomography in the detection of the splenic lesions may guide the physician for accurate diagnosis. Magnetic resonance imaging of the spleen may be helpful in the diagnosis of splenic lesion however it is still expensive and not always available. Isotope study has a limited role in the detection of splenic lesion but it is still non-specific in assessment of nature of the lesion. Angiography also may has a role in diagnosis of vascular disorder (Clark's 1998) ⁽⁶⁾

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AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of the work is to study the role of ultrasonography and computed tomography in the diagnosis of the splenic lesions.

Review of literature