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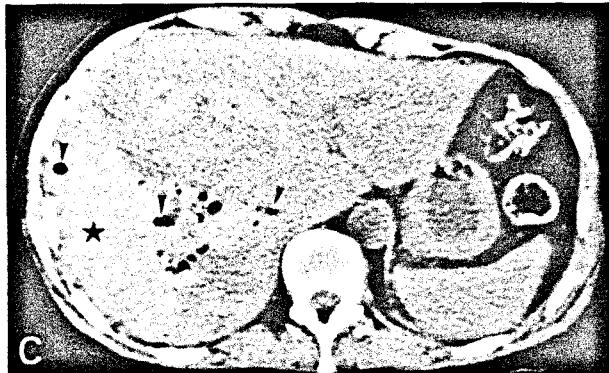
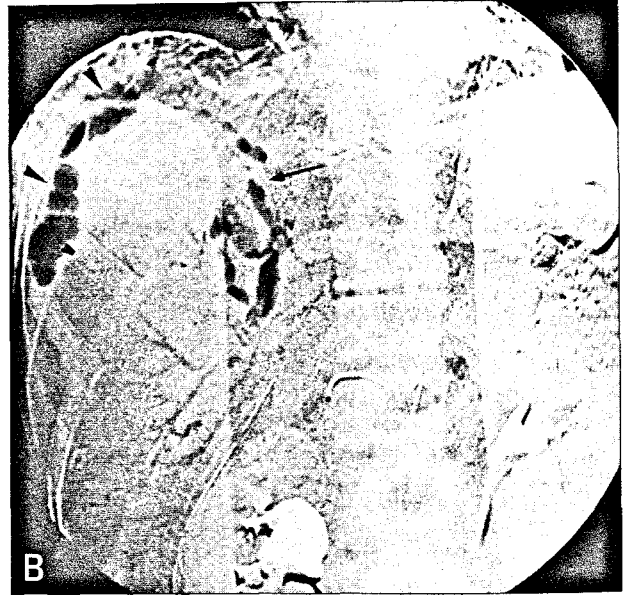
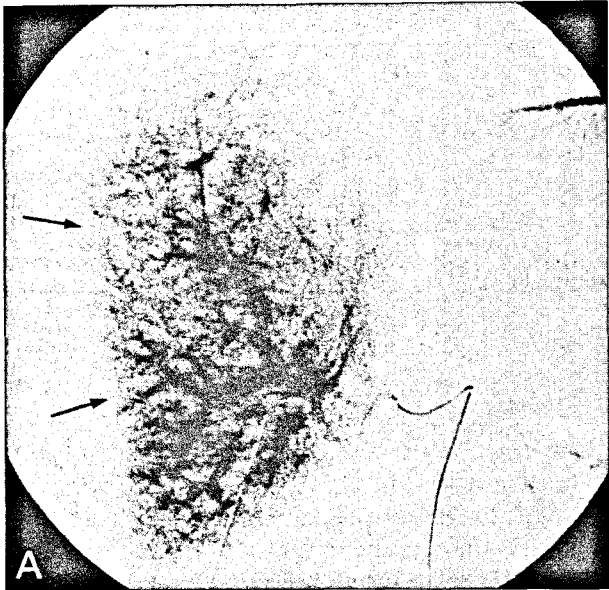
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IMAGES IN CLINICAL RADIOLOGY



Demonstration of post-traumatic hepatic hemorrhage with carbon dioxide digital subtraction angiography

A 53-year-old woman was referred to our hospital for evaluation of right hepatic masses. Because hepatocellular carcinoma was suspected, she underwent laparoscopic exploration. Five needle biopsy samples of the main lesion located in the dome of the right liver were obtained.

Her postoperative course was complicated at 8 hours by a severe hypovolemic shock. A hepatic digital subtraction angiography was performed. Nonionic iodinated contrast media injections identified a smooth pressure defect on the right hepatic lobe but failed to demonstrate the bleeding site (Fig. 1A, arrows). Carbon dioxide (CO₂) angiography (Fig. 1B) clearly showed arterial bleeding (arrow) from the dome of the right peri-hepatic space (arrowheads). Right hepatic embolization with gelfoam pledges resulted in complete cessation of the hemorrhage. Unenhanced computed tomography (Fig. 1C) confirmed the presence of a right peri-hepatic hematoma (star) and showed the presence of gas bubbles in the right liver and within the hematoma (arrowheads).

CO₂ is a safe alternative contrast agent to iodine. As CO₂ permits visualization of minute amounts of arterial bleeding, ongoing hemorrhage may be seen only with CO₂ in some instances.

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