

Focal steatosis of the liver with metastatic carcinoma

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Diffuse steatosis of the liver is common and due to nutrition, toxic substances like alcohol, metabolic diseases like diabetes, or infections like hepatitis C. Focal fatty change of the liver is a rare observation at necropsy. Nowadays it can be an incidental finding at imaging [1] and rises some difficulties in interpretation, especially in patients with suspected liver metastases [2, 3].

We present a 50 years old female patient that had a metastatic adenocarcinoma pT3, pN1, pM1, G2 of the rectum with a liver metastasis in the right lobe, proven by needle biopsy. Subsequent staging revealed an additional suspicious lesion in segment IV, which was excised together with the solitary metastasis.

Frozen section examination revealed focal steatosis only.

The occurrence of focal steatosis in defined anatomical regions of the liver, mostly segment IV, is very distinct and probably due to the peculiar type of vascular supply of this particular liver segment [4, 5].

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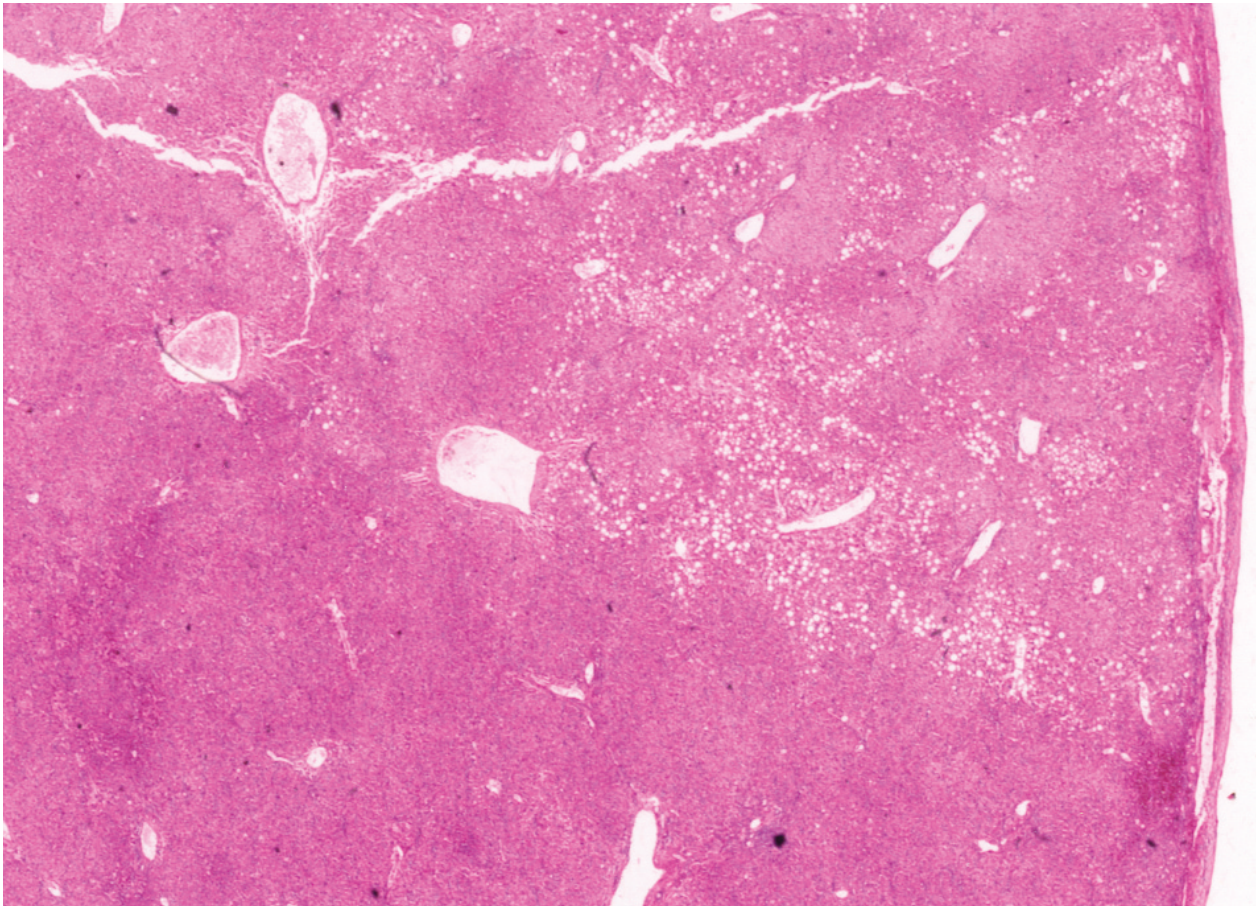


Fig. 1 Focal steatosis is demonstrated in the upper right of the picture. H&E stain. Magnification 17x.

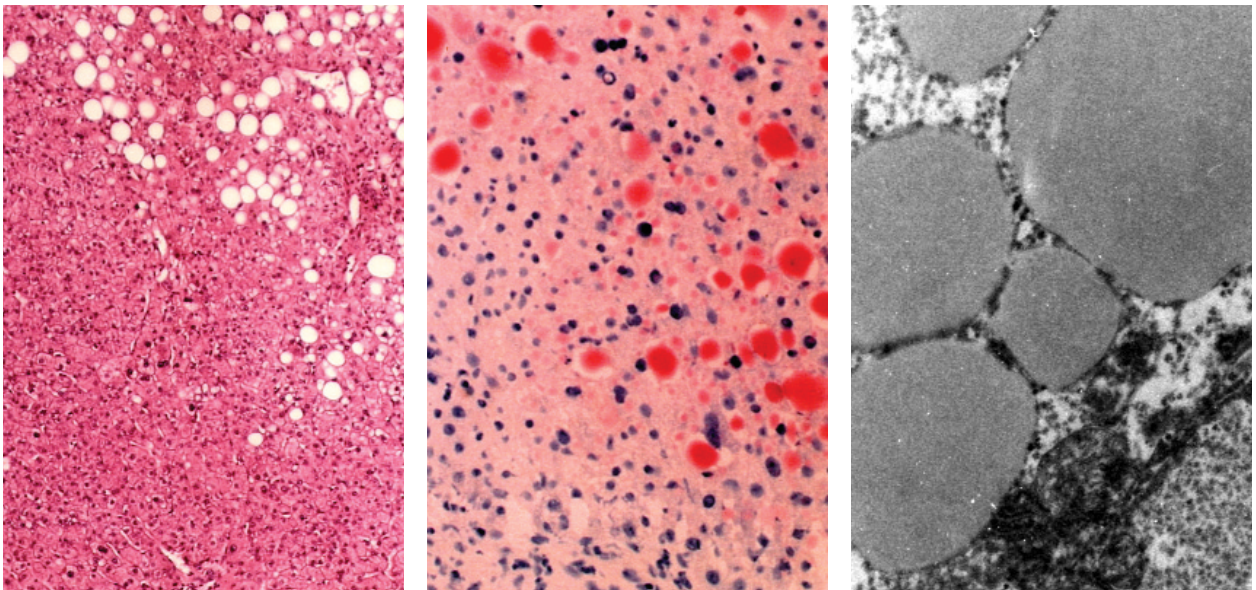


Fig. 2 Demonstration of the mainly macrovesicular fat in H&E stain (a), Sudan red-stain for neutral fat (b) and on ultrastructure (c).