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Title: The management of postoperative complications in childhood pulmonary hydatid cysts

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Body: Background: Hydatid disease in children has previously been discussed many times in the literature. However, management of postoperative complications has been rarely discussed. In this study, the complications of our cases are evaluated and discussed. Material- methods: Ninety-seven patients under 16 years of age with hydatid cysts who were operated on between January 2001 and January 2007 were analyzed retrospectively. All the patients were followed up with examination and chest X-ray after surgery. The complications occurred in the first 48 hours after surgery are considered as early complications, and the complications between 48 hours- 30 days are considered as late complications. Results: 61 male and 36 female pediatric hydatid disease patients with a mean age of 10.31 were operated on. Postoperative first 48 hours, atelectasis was observed in 17 cases (17.5%) and bronchoscopy was performed for these patients. After 48 hours, pneumonia occurred in one patient and he was treated with antibiotics. Prolonged air leak was observed in 4 patients (4.1%) and they were treated with continued tube thoracostomy. 2 patients with prolonged air leak were hyperventilated with positive pressure under general anesthesia. Wound infection was seen in 2 patients. Regular wound dressing and antibiotic treatment were performed for these cases. Empyema was occurred in 2 patients. In these cases antibiotics were given and tube thoracostomy was continued. Conclusion: Atelectasis, which is the most common postoperative complication, should immediately be treated. It should be kept in mind that early treatment of atelectasis prevents the development of greater complications in children.