A 51-year-old female was admitted to the hospital for pain in the left hypochondrium, which on physical examination revealed splenomegaly and deformity in the third phalanx of both hands, suggesting rheumatoid arthritis.

Introduction
Peliosis is a rare benign condition characterized by sinusoidal lakes or cysts filled with blood, with or without hyperplasia of the remaining tissue, presenting itself mainly in solid organs of the economy.

It has also been described in other organs such as lungs, pleura, kidneys, adrenal glands and stomach. Its precise etiology is unknown, but it has been associated with other entities such as tumors, viral infections, systemic diseases where they are mentioned, lupus erythematosus, and rheumatoid arthritis. In addition, prolonged treatment with Anabolics, Steroids, Erythropoietin, Acetyl-Salicylic Acid, Paracetamol and Vitamin A is noted.

The present case is a 51-year-old female, born of preterm birth and carrier of bronchial asthma, who deliberately ingests steroids and Vitamin A.

Thus, she goes to the doctor for pain in the left hypochondrium, which on physical examination attracts attention to the presence of splenomegaly of more than 4 cm. It is also evident the deformity that presents in the third phalanx of both hands that makes you think of physical signs of arthritis rheumatoid.

Keywords: Peliosis, splenomegaly, rheumatoid arthritis.

History
Wagner first described Peliosis in 1861 (Wagner, 1961). In 1916 Schoenlak et al. (Schoenlank, 1916), introduced the term peliosis which means “purple” or “brown”, due to the color observed in the tissue. In 1950, Zak (Zak, 1950) described this entity for the first time in the English literature. It took 103 years for Caroli et al. (Caroli et al., 1964) to make the diagnosis in a living patient. In 1971, Drut and Pawlow (Drut & Pawlow, 1971) described the first case of hepatosplenic peliosis in Argentina.

Presentation of the case
A 51-year-old MML patient with a history of having been born prematurely, in addition to bronchial asthma from the first years of life and from the age of 35, debuted with rheumatoid arthritis.
arthrosis; Due to these antecedents, in the course of life she is a high consumer of Vitamin A and D, without a medical prescription, also associated with the deliberate use of steroids due to bronchial asthma, which she still uses sporadically.

In June 2020, he went to the doctor for pain in the left hypochondrium, which he describes as dull, continuous pain without radiation. In addition, a feeling of early fullness. She refers to weakness and a slight loss of appetite. Denies other symptoms.

**Physical exam**

**Skin paleness** - discreet mucosa and deformity of the third phalanx of all the fingers of both hands. (Figure 1)

**Abdomen:** voluminous, discreetly distended with splenomegaly of 4 cm, below the left costal margin, with regular borders, being painful on palpation.

**Blood pressure:** 130/80 mmHg. Heart rate: 84 bpm.

Rest of the exam without alterations

![Deformity of the third phalanx on all fingers of both hands](image1)

**Complementary Exams**

Hemoglobin in 12.1gr/l Hematocrit in 39%
Erythrosedimentation in 44 mm., Coagulation 7 min. Bleeding 1 min

**Peripheral lamina:** Adequate platelets, mild leukocytosis, neutrophilia.

**Red blood cells:** normochromic normocytic and reticulocyte count in 1.2%.

Rest of the rigorous exams, without alterations.

Abdominal Ultrasound: Occluded image in the region of the splenic pedicle, measuring around 10x10cms, in addition to verifying the splenomegaly found in the physical examination.

Contrast multisite helical tomography of the abdomen with MPR and MPI reconstruction, showing a liver of normal size and configuration. Spleen showing a hypo dense, septate image, with irregular contours, with low densities in its interior, said lesion slightly compresses and displaces the left kidney, downwards and backwards. The lesion did not capture contrast. (Figure 2)

![Hypo dense, septet image with irregular contours, with low interior densities.](image2)

After the studies carried out, it is discussed in the group of the Surgery Service and her surgical intervention is decided, performing total splenectomy, by conventional route, the patient evolves favorably and is discharged, one week later.

**Anatomopathological Study**

The macroscopic study showed: Surgical specimen from total splenectomy, weighing 500gms. In addition, it measures 15x12x5 cm, presenting a smooth, shiny capsular surface, of a purplish brown color, that bulges and makes relief, in the pedicle region: of relentless consistency, corresponding to the cut, with a cystic, multinodular area, entirely occupied by abundant blood, and measuring 10x7cms. Rest of the splenic parenchyma of friable consistency, reddish in color, with a whitish stippling. Figure 3.

![Spleen weighing 500gms. In addition, it measures 15x12x5 cm, presenting a smooth, shiny capsular surface, of a purplish-brown color, that bulges and makes relief, in the region of the pedicle.](image3)

The microscopic study concluded: Splenic tissue with normal histological limits, which alternates with cystic and sinusoidal areas, with thick walls, which are occupied by blood. Figure 4.
Histopathological diagnosis: PELIOSIS SPLENICA

Figure 4: Splenic tissue with normal histological limits, alternating with cystic and sinusoidal areas, with thick walls, which are occupied by blood

Discussion
The term peliosis refers to the histopathological appearance found in the affected organ and is given by the formation of cystic cavities filled with blood in the parenchyma of said organ, which may or may not coincide with the hyperplasia of the remaining tissue. (Fouquette & Lefebure, 1975) Hepatic localization is the most frequent, most of the time in immune deficient patients, chronically treated with steroids or in seropositive patients with bacterial infections. Cases of peliosis in the liver, spleen, lymph nodes, spinal cord, stomach, ileum and lung (Fouquette & Lefebure, 1975; Joseph et al., 2004; Lashbrook et al., 2006).

Splenic peliosis is an exceptional entity, with less than 100 cases published in the literature, most of the diagnoses being in post-mortem studies, because although it is a benign condition, its management is delayed due to its infrequent presentation. It is associated with tumors, infectious diseases, autoimmune disorders, drug use, transplants, radiation therapy, and splenic vein thrombosis (Lashbrook et al., 2006).

Hemoperitoneum due to spontaneous splenic rupture or secondary to minimal trauma is a frequent complication (Agombar, 2006). The etiopathogenesis could be related to congenital, toxic factors, or immune complex deposits. Elevation of VEGF (endothelial growth factor) concentrations in patients with splenic peliosis has been argued (Joseph et al., 2004; Lashbrook et al., 2006).

Diagnosis is difficult, although this entity must be taken into account in cases of hypersplenism in which imaging tests show nodulations or cysts in the splenic parenchyma. In cases of suspected hemoperitoneum, abdominal tomography is the imaging technique of choice (Agombar, 2006; Davidson & Tung, 2010; Rafael et al., 2012).

Peliosis is very little documented in the reviewed literature. Its identification requires a high index of suspicion, in patients with prolonged treatment with drugs or known toxins capable of producing the disease and who present persistent abdominal pain or suggestive images. The diagnosis is incidental and on other occasions of exclusion. Treatment depends on the underlying cause.

Conclusions
Splenic peliosis is an exceptional medical entity; therefore, the expertise for its diagnosis and subsequent treatment lies precisely in improving knowledge about the disease and medical performance in the consequent action.

Conflict of interests
The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Authors Contribution
José Miguel González Bárcenas: Data collection, analysis, and statistical processing.
Juana Teresa Santiago: She drafted the manuscript and participated in data collection.
Ernesto Miguel Rodríguez Santiago: Participated in data collection.
Asunción Rodríguez Morris: Participated in literature search.
José Rodríguez Santiago: Participated in literature search.

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