FOCAL HEPATIC ENHANCEMENT ON COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY IN A PATIENT WITH NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CARCINOMA

Adam P. Wallach, BS, and Todd R. Hazelton, MD

From the University of South Florida College of Medicine (APW) and the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute (TRH), Tampa, Fla.

Case Description

Thoracic computed tomography (CT) was done to assess the response to treatment of a poorly differentiated carcinoma of the lung in a 32-year-old man. An image from this study through the level of the liver demonstrates a focal area of contrast enhancement within the medial segment of the left lobe (Fig 1), a finding that was not present on prior examination.

The most likely cause for the enhancing area in the liver is:

1. portal vein thrombosis
2. collateral flow secondary to superior vena cava obstruction
3. hypervascular tumor
4. hepatic venous outflow obstruction (Budd-Chiari syndrome)
5. focal nodular hyperplasia

Fig 1.—Axial helical CT image demonstrating a region of intense contrast enhancement within the medial segment of the left liver lobe (arrow).