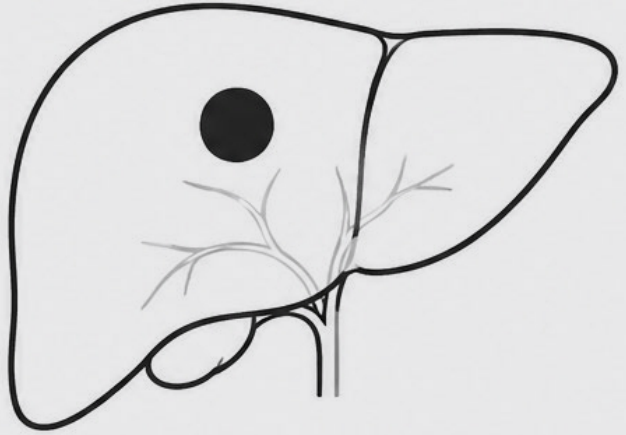




National University
Hospital



Understanding Your CT Scan Results

A Guide to Incidental Findings – Liver

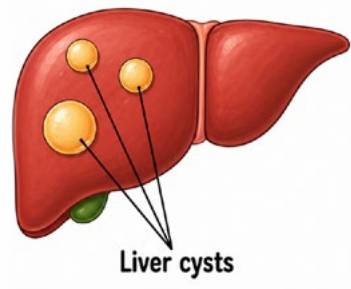
What is an incidental finding?

Sometimes, when doctors take pictures of your chest (called a CT scan), they spot something that wasn't the reason for the scan. This is called an incidental finding. Think of it like having your photo taken and someone noticing something in the background. Most of the time, these findings are harmless, but your doctor wants to make sure you know about them and get any help you might need.

Liver Lesion

At a glance summary:

- The **liver** is a large organ on the right side of your tummy. It processes food, cleans your blood, and makes important proteins.
- A **simple cyst** is a harmless fluid-filled sac — like a water balloon inside the liver. It is not cancerous and almost never causes problems. Liver cysts are found in about 1 in 20 people.
- You have been given this leaflet because something was seen in your liver that is or might be a cyst. This is nothing to be too concerned about, and may not need any further tests or treatment. However, if necessary, your doctor may advise you get another scan or see a specialist about this. Please see below for more detailed information.



What was found?

Something was found in your liver on the CT scan. It either appears to be a simple cyst (a harmless sac of fluid) or is too small to fully identify on this type of scan. Simple liver cysts are very common — found in about 1 in 20 people — and are almost always completely harmless.

Is it serious?

Most liver cysts cause no symptoms and need no treatment. Occasionally, a very large cyst may cause some discomfort in the upper tummy, but this is rare. If a cyst becomes infected, it may cause sudden pain or fever — if this happens, see a doctor promptly.

If you have a history of liver disease, hepatitis, or certain cancers, please make sure your doctor is aware — this may change the advice given.

What causes liver cysts?

Simple liver cysts form from a very minor quirk in how bile duct cells develop. They are not caused by anything you did or ate, and they are not contagious. Having a family member with liver cysts slightly increases your chance of having one too.

What happens next?

If your scan and medical history are not concerning for anything more than a simple cyst, then no further imaging or follow-up is needed at this time. If it is less clear and the doctors cannot define your liver lesion based on the available information or they have concerns it could be more serious, they will likely advise further tests or referral to a specialist.

This leaflet is a guide only. Your doctor will advise on what is most appropriate for your individual situation. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions.

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Scan for
more information

The information in this brochure is meant for educational purposes and should not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. Please seek your doctor's advice before starting any treatment, or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical condition.

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