

## The Focal Hepatic Hot Spot Sign

**Keywords:** Focal; Hepatic Hot spot sign

The focal hepatic hot spot sign is due to a Porto systemic venous shunt between the SVC and the portal vein. It is created by areas of focal increased blood flow that result from this shunt. This sign is found mainly in Budd-Chiari syndrome, the causes of which are multiple, notably thorax neoplasms.

### Clinical image

A 65-year-old man followed for a left pulmonary adenocarcinoma with lymph node metastasis treated by chemotherapy, the control scanner showed an increase in mediastinal lymphadenopathy compressing the mediastinal vascular structures, in particular the superior vena cava Figure 1, and the abdomen-CT showing an area of intense, homogeneous wedge-shaped enhancement in the square lobe of the liver Figure 2 [1-3].

### Discussion

The focal hepatic hot spot sign was first described in 1983 by Ishikawa. It is due to a portosystemic venous shunt between the SVC and the portal vein. The hot spot is created by areas of focal increased blood flow that result from this shunt. This sign is found mainly in Budd-Chiari syndrome, the causes of which are multiple, notably thorax neoplasms such as pulmonary carcinoma and lymphoma, Vasculo-Bechet disease, fibrosing mediastinitis and lactic aneurysm, the differential diagnosis is made mainly with haemangioma, hepatocellular carcinoma, focal nodular hyperplasia located in segment IV and which can mimic the focal hepatic hot spot sign.

