



Figure 2. **A**, Axial and **B**, sagittal enhanced computed tomography scans show an oval hypodense mass with thick hyperdense rim and fat stranding, extended along the course of the falciform ligament (circles). **C**, Coronal enhanced computed tomography scan shows an enlarged and heterogeneous falciform ligament and fat stranding of adjacent planes, close to falciform ligament course (arrows).

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Child with Fern-Like Skin Lesion

A 10-year-old child presented after lightning struck the steel rope to which she was attached while hiking. She was alert, without pain, and in good clinical condition. Pulse was 90 beats/minute and respiratory rate 15 breath/minute. On physical examination, a Lichtenberg figure, a superficial, tortuous and fern-like skin lesion, was noted on the medial aspect of the right forearm (Figure). Electrocardiogram (ECG) and blood examinations, including troponin and creatine phosphokinase, were all unremarkable.

Lightning injuries are uncommon, but not rare, with an incidence 240 000 times a year; approximately 70%-90% are not fatal.^{1,2} The mechanisms of injury can be a “direct strike,” which mostly lead to fatal cardiorespiratory arrest, “ground current” when lightning hits the ground nearby, “side splash” when lightning strikes a nearby taller object, and “contact injury,” when the current is conducted by wires or other metal surfaces, as happened in our case. Lichtenberg figures are pathognomonic of lightning injuries. These

lesions, which can be inappropriately called burns, have a typical feathering pattern, are not painful, and tend to disappear in 24-48 hours. The most likely pathogenic mechanism is considered to be lysis of erythrocytes caused by electric current path. Other physical signs include petechiae and blunt injury derived from sudden muscular contraction or from secondary trauma.² Because there is a risk of late arrhythmia, even in asymptomatic individuals, performing an ECG is recommended. If baseline ECG shows alterations, then appropriate management is hospital observation and additionally an echocardiogram to examine for cardiac dysfunction. For these patients, ECG monitoring is required until resolution of alterations.³ ■

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Figure. Lichtenberg figures, fernlike or featherlike transient skin injury induced by lightning. The girl was struck through the arm by which she was holding the rope.

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