

GIANT NEURILEMOMA OF BIG TOE: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction: A neurilemoma, also known as schwannoma is a rare, benign tumour originating from Schwann cells of peripheral nerve sheath. It commonly occurs in subjects between 20 and 50 years of age. While neurilemomas usually affect the head and neck region, localization in the lower extremity particularly foot is exceptionally rare. Trauma, Carney's complex, and neurofibromatosis (NF) type 1 or 2 might play an etiological role in this tumour development. The average length of a schwannoma in the foot or ankle is 1.5 to 2 cm. Majority of them are smaller than 5 cm, those larger are termed giant neurilemomas.

Discussion: A 25 years old gentleman presented with painless swelling over right big toe which was slowly increasing in size for 13 years. There was history of trauma in which he hit his right big toe against edge of table. Physical examination showed a painless non mobile lobulated swelling measuring 10x8 cm overlying dorsal surface of right big toe. Plain radiograph of right foot revealed no bony abnormalities but only unmineralized soft tissue shadow overlying right big toe. MRI of right foot showed large well defined multilobulated soft tissue lesion at dorsum of right big toe which suggestive of giant cell tumour of the right big toe tendon sheath. We proceeded with excision biopsy and histopathological assessment revealed right big toe neurilemoma. Patient was discharged and so far after 6 months of follow up patient is well and no recurrence of disease.

Conclusion: Giant neurilemoma of the foot is an extremely rare soft tissue tumour. MRI may allow an earlier diagnosis and provide valuable information about the size and possible bone invasion. Treatment should include a complete excision of the neurilemoma may prevent the risk of local recurrence, regardless of its size.