

PSEUDOTUMOR MIMICKING A SOFT TISSUE TUMOR IN THE HAND

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Introduction: Lesions or swelling in the hand often arise from either bone or soft tissues. These lesions are often divided into two vast categories which are tumor like lesions (pseudotumors) and tumors (neoplasms). Mimickers of soft tissue tumours in the hand are more common than neoplasms and they usually vary from cystic lesions, skin lesions, infectious lesions, inflammatory lesions, vascular lesions and even abnormal anatomic variants. These tumors and pseudotumors have very subtle variations between them, hence meticulous clinical examination and a systemic approach to diagnosis is vital as treatment for both these lesions are completely disparate.

Discussion: Here, we report a case of pseudotumor over the left hypothenar aspect of a 70-year old gentleman with a size of 6 x 5 cm, which has been growing over the past one year with occasional haemorrhagic discharge. With an MRI finding of chronic granulomatous epidermal cyst we performed an excision biopsy over the lesion only to be surprised with purulent discharge intraoperatively which subsequently cultured *Pseudomonas*. The gentleman eventually went on to make a complete recovery with targeted antibiotic therapy.

Conclusion: This proves that, collaboration with a musculoskeletal radiologist and a pathologist is pivotal in making the correct diagnosis and a biopsy should be performed if doubtful. We review the literature on the importance of knowledge of the normal anatomy, existence and common presentation of these lesions and stress on the significance of adhering to surgical principles.