

A Rare Painless Solid Tumor at Thenar - Giant Cell Tumor of Soft Tissue

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INTRODUCTION:

Hand tumors account for 15% of all soft tissue tumors. Salm and Sissons were the first to describe a giant cell tumor of soft tissue (GCT-ST) in 1972.^[1] It is a rare skin tumor with a benign clinical course and a low probability of recurrence and metastasis after wide local excision.^[2]

REPORT:

A 54-year-old Chinese, gentleman, right-hand dominant construction worker with no known medical illness developed a painless left hand thenar eminence swelling of size 0.5cmx0.5cm without preceding causes 6-month ago. Incision and drainage was performed at primary care center.

Six months later, patient presented to us with a 2cmx3cm hard, painless swelling at the left hand's thenar eminence and a 0.5cmx0.5cm non-healing ulcer adhered to skin. The hand MRI revealed a non-infiltrative 12x8x6mm benign tumor with differential diagnosis of fibrotic or granulomatous lesion. Marginal excision was performed. Intraoperatively, the hard swelling attached to the palmar aponeurosis and thenar muscle was healthy.

Histopathology showed neoplastic mononuclear cells in fascicles embedded in fibro-collagenous to fibro-myxoid stroma and scattered osteoclast-like multinucleated giant cells. Bony metaplasia was seen.

Post-operatively, there was gapping of wound which healed without complication. No recurrence seen in 2 months follow-up.

Figure 1:

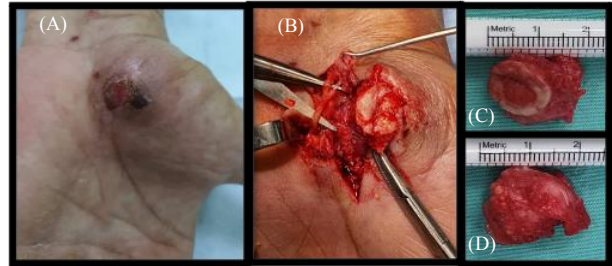


Figure 2:

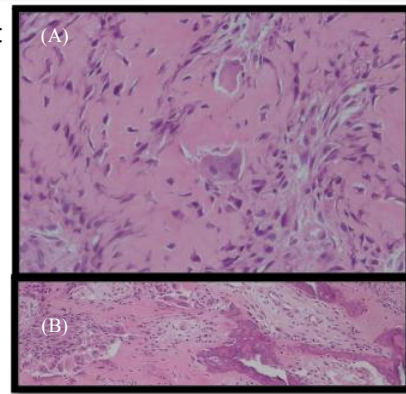


Figure 1: (A) 2x3cm swelling with 0.5x0.5cm at thenar eminence. (B) No adherence to the palmar aponeurosis, and the palmar cutaneous branch of the median nerve was isolated and protected. (C&D) 2x2x1.5cm swelling excised.

Figure 2: (A) HPE showed mononuclear cells with scattered multinucleated giant cells. (B) Bony metaplasia of the GCT.

CONCLUSION:

GCT-ST should be considered in the presence of a painless solid mass of soft tissue, and surgical excision with a wide margin of normal skin should be performed to minimize the recurrence rate.

REFERENCES:

1. Salm, R. and H. Sissons, *Giant-cell tumours of soft tissues*. The Journal of Pathology, 1972. 107(1): p. 27-39.
2. Oliveira, A.M., et al., *Primary giant cell tumor of soft tissues: a study of 22 cases*. The American journal of surgical pathology, 2000. 24(2): p. 248-256.