

Second Strike: Recurrent Lipomatous Growth of the Arm

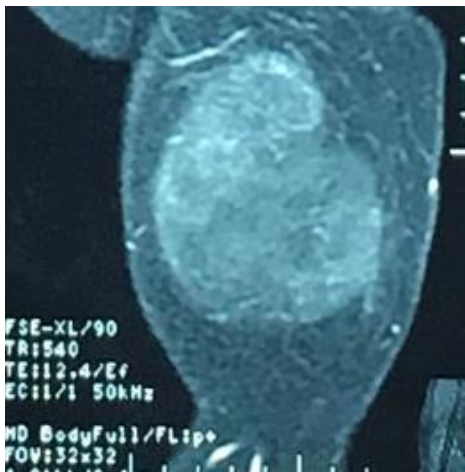
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INTRODUCTION:

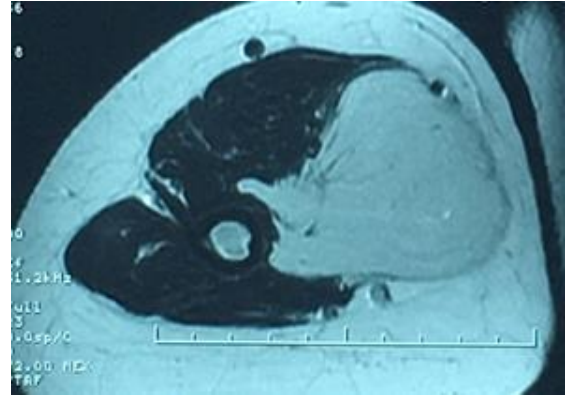
Reported first in 1906 by Merkel, hibernomas are uncommon neoplasms of brown adipose tissue¹, and even more uncommon are the myxoid variant². We report of one such case encountered at our centre, initially suspected to be liposarcoma of the back.

REPORT:

A 24 years old lady had previously underwent excision biopsy of her right arm six years prior revealing lipoblastoma. Subsequently discharged well, she again had recurrent swelling at the previous arm with swelling gradually increasing in size within 10 months. She complained of limited range of movement with mild tenderness upon full flexion. She was arranged for an MRI, which suggested possibility of early sarcomatous change. Going under the knife again, intraoperatively there was a highly vascular mass 8cm², partly adhered to the brachialis muscle which was partly released. Histopathological report interpreted the mass as hibernoma with scattered acellular myxoid stroma. Post operatively, she recovered well with no restriction of movement.



Coronal slice MRI of the right arm



Axial slice MRI of right arm

DISCUSSION:

Recurrent lipomas are usually expected to be similar with malignant transformation in some cases. A total transformation of a different variant of benign lipoma similar to our experience is unheard of. The imaging done without presumptuously deciding the diagnosis was in favour for our treatment and management for this patient.

CONCLUSION:

Occurrence of different types of lipomas at the same location is rare. Management of patients still dictates surgical excision after imaging, which assists in the approach and possible outcomes.

REFERENCES:

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3. DeRosa DC, Lim RB, Lin-Hurtubise K, Johnson EA. Symptomatic hibernoma: a rare soft tissue tumor. *Hawaii J Med Public Health.* 2012 Dec; 71(12):342-5