

Ankle Swelling: It's an Angioleiomyoma!

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INTRODUCTION:

Angioleiomyoma is a benign subcutaneous soft tissue tumour of smooth muscle origin. It is uncommon and is more prevalent in women than in men, mostly in the middle-aged population.

It is known as a vascular leiomyoma owing to its smooth muscle origin of tunica media of vessels.

REPORT:

This is a case of 26-year-old woman with no underlying comorbid. She complained of a painful, small nodule at the left medial ankle for the past 1 year. Despite the subtle nature of the nodule, it has been causing significant pain and pressure from wearing her footwear. On examination, an ill-defined firm, mobile nodule measuring about 0.5x1cm was palpable over the medial aspect of the ankle, just distal to the medial malleolus.

Ultrasound revealed a well-defined lobulated subcutaneous nodular hypoechoic lesion superficial to the flexor digitorum longus and flexor hallucis longus tendon measuring approximately 0.6x0.4x0.8cm, adjacent to the posterior tibial artery with increased vascularity within. Excision biopsy showed a single nodule within the subcutaneous layer with presence of multiple stalks. HPE was suggestive of angioleiomyoma due to presence of abundance of vascular channels, mainly arterioles in origin, with thrombus within.

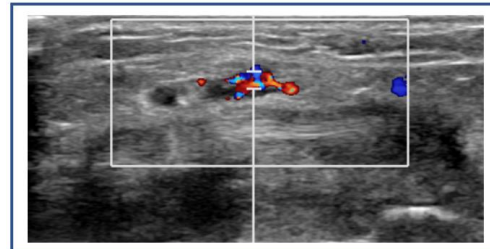


Figure 1: Ultrasound finding revealed hypervascularity of the nodule.



Figure 2: Intraoperative finding showing single nodule with multiple stalks

CONCLUSION:

Diagnosis of angioleiomyoma is mainly done through HPE recognition, and rarely diagnosed prior to operation¹. However, there are few pre-operative clues that may suggest of this condition such as painful nodules during movement, and ultrasound finding that shows hypervascularity within the nodule. The treatment is surgical removal of the nodule to reduce the symptom.

REFERENCES:

1. Bodapati VS, Sunderamoorthy D. Angioleiomyoma-rare soft tissue tumor of the foot and ankle, review of two patients and review of the literature. *J Surg Case Rep.* 2021;2021(12):rjab535. Published 2021 Dec 11. doi:10.1093/jscr/rjab535