

Liposarcoma of Hand

¹Thayalan, Tharshini; ²Singh, Harkeerat

¹Department of Orthopaedic Hospital Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, Temerloh, Pahang.

INTRODUCTION:

Giant lipomas of hand are rare. The diagnosis of lipoma can be made with a comprehensive history and clinical examination, but in cases of giant lipoma, liposarcoma cannot be excluded. MRI is paramount in diagnosis for masses of more than 5 cm and deep to fascia.

REPORT:

MRS TI is a 75-year-old woman, ex-smoker with underlying diabetes mellitus presented with a 1-year history of gradually increasing right hand swelling. She had no constitutional symptoms but has strong family history of malignancy. On physical examination, there was soft, fluctuant, non pulsating swelling over 1st web space extending to thenar eminence measuring 12 x 8 cm with loculated nodule at base of each finger (Figure 1). Other system examinations were normal with no lymphadenopathy.

All blood investigations were normal except erythrocyte sedimentation rate, 66. Plain radiograph of right hand showed soft tissue swelling over 1st webspace with no other significant findings. Ultrasound of right hand revealed multiple hyperechoic subcutaneous lesions as right palm while MRI right hand showed encapsulated mass at the right thenar region and features of right palmar mass which was suggestive of a deep lipoma sheathing the flexor tendons (Figure 2). Based on available results, patient was treated as possible slow growing liposarcoma, differential diagnosis as fibrosarcoma and low grade liposarcoma. Case was then referred to oncology department for further management.



Figure 1: Patient's right hand

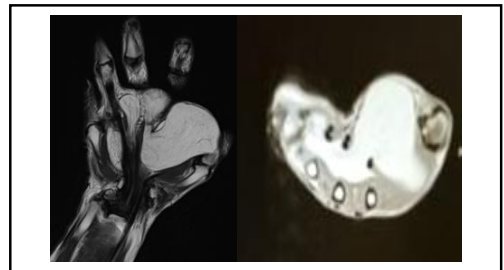


Figure 2: Presence of thin non-enhancing septae within the mass

CONCLUSION:

Hand liposarcomas are not well recognized leading to inappropriate diagnosis causing delayed proper treatment. Some important MRI features for excision include extend of mass and correlation towards the digital vessels. The choice of treatment is surgery and radiotherapy for resectable tumour where else neoadjuvant therapies for unresectable stages. Correct preoperative diagnosis and subsequent treatment leads to good oncological and functional outcomes for patients with hand liposarcoma.

REFERENCES:

1. Casal, D. et al. (2012) "A 63-year-old woman presenting with a synovial sarcoma of the hand: A case report," *Journal of Medical Case Reports*, 6(1).