INFILTRATIVE ANGIOLIPOMA
OF THE NECK

ABDUL-LATIF HAMDAN*, LAURICE MAHFoud**, HANI RIFAI**, CHARBEL RAMEH**, NABIL FULEIHAN*

Introduction

Lipomas are the most common mesenchymal tumors of the body. They can occur in any soft tissue ranging from subcutaneous fat to the parosteal areas adjacent to bone. They are usually asymptomatic masses easily diagnosed on radiological imaging1. Angiolipoma is a variant of lipoma with proliferation of its vascular component. These tumors occur on the trunk and extremities of young adults with the forearm being the most common site of involvement. Documented sites of occurrence in the head and neck region include cheek, palate, neck, jaw, nose, eyelid, parotid, tongue, paranasal sinuses and parapharynx. Only 4 cases have been described in the neck, with 75% of these being infiltrative2. We would like to present the fifth case of infiltrative angiolipoma of the neck.

Case presentation

A 23y old male patient, previously healthy, presented with a four month history of a slowly growing, painless neck mass that was not associated with skin changes, fever, recent infection or trauma. No history of contact with patients with tuberculosis. Physical examination revealed a well circumscribed soft left postero-lateral neck mass, 5 × 5 cm, non tender and non pulsatile. Patient had normal muscle power in his upper extremities and normal pulses. A fine needle aspiration revealed an acellular specimen. Magnetic resonance imaging of the head and neck showed a heterogeneous 5 × 4 × 4 cm, well-circumscribed mass with a prominent vascular component, underneath the trapezius and longus colli muscles. The mass enhanced on T1 and T2 weighted images. The patient underwent resection of the posterior neck mass through a cervical approach incision. Intra-operatively the mass was found to be infiltrating the adjacent muscles. Histopathologic examination revealed proliferation of small mostly capillary sized vessels and adipose tissue between muscle fibers in a pseudo-infiltrative type (Fig. 1). The diagnosis was consistent with angiolipoma of the neck the infiltrative type.

Discussion

Lipomas occur in regions such as back and shoulders, with the head and neck region being rarely the site of origin. Histologically, they are classified into five categories; 1) lipoma; 2) hybernoma; 3) heterotopic lipoma; 4) lipomatosis syndrome; and 5) histologic variants of lipoma.

---

* MD, FACS, Clinical Associate Professor, Otolaryngology Department, American University of Beirut Medical Center-Lebanon.
** MD, Resident, Otolaryngology Department, American University of Beirut Medical Center-Lebanon.

Corresponding Author: Abdul-latif Hamdan, MD, FACS, Clinical Associate Professor, Otolaryngology Department, American University of Beirut Medical Center-Lebanon, Tel/Fax: 961-1746660, P.O. Box: 110236 Beirut-Lebanon. E-mail: alhamdan@svclb.com, hamdans2@hotmail.com
H&E staining (X100 magnification) shows proliferation of small mostly capillary sized vessels and adipose tissue between muscle fibers in a pseudo-infiltrative type. The vessels have plump nuclei with well formed lumina. Mitotic figures are not seen. There is no atypia. Findings are constant with angiolipoma.

Fig. 1

References