

Rare Swelling Of Knee: Lipoma Arborescens

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INTRODUCTION:

Lipoma arborescens is an rare cause of intraarticular swelling, chronic, slowly progressive, usually involving the suprapatellar pouch of the knee joint.

Report:

A 57 years-old, Malay male, who presented with painless swelling right knee for 2 years. The swelling at right knee increase in size progressively without pain. He was able to carry out his daily activity independently. There was no history of trauma. He did not have constitutional symptoms. No fever. No family history of cancer.

On examination, a swelling at right distal thigh. The swelling measuring 10cm x 15cm, firm consistency, not tender and not warm. Active range of movement right knee was full. Neurovascular right lower limb was intact

MRI of his right knee showed multiple nodular with frond like lesion of fat intensity within distended suprapatellar bursa.

He underwent total synovectomy of right knee. Total synovectomy of right knee done through medial parapatellar approach. Intraoperative findings (Figure 2b) were villonodular pink-purplish soft tissue swelling of synovium and fatty nodular tissue in joint

The samples sent for histology showed synovial hyperplasia and adipocytes forming nodular structures which were characteristic of lipoma arborescens.

After 1 year follow up, he had no recurrent swelling of knee and able to carry out his daily activity.

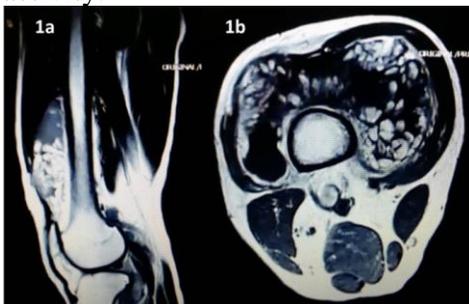


Figure 1: MRI Right knee sagittal view(1a) and axial view(1b)

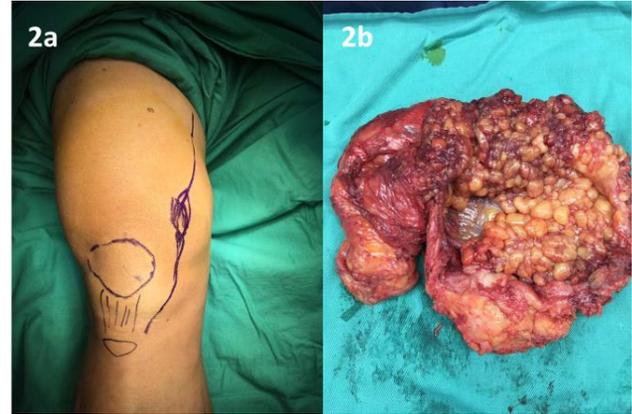


Figure 2: Right knee swelling(2a). Intraoperative finding of swelling after synovectomy(2b).

DISCUSSIONS:

The most common differential diagnosis for lipoma arborescens are synovial osteochondromatosis, PVNS, rheumatoid arthritis, tuberculous arthritis and gouty arthropathy, so it is very challenging in making diagnosis(1). However, most of these lesions has specific imaging features, especially on MRI. Synovectomy is the recommended treatment and is usually curative, Recurrence after synovectomy has been reported(2).

CONCLUSION:

Lipoma Arborescens is a rare benign tumour. MRI is helpful for diagnosis by showing the characteristic of lipoma arborescens. Synovectomy for this benign tumor is usually curative.

REFERENCES:

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