

Giving The Middle Finger: A Case Report

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INTRODUCTION

Lipomas are one of the uncommon benign tumors that arise from the synovial membrane of the tendon sheath¹. Although there have been reported cases in other parts of the body, to our knowledge we are reporting the only known case of angiofibrolipoma of the tendon sheath in Malaysia.

CASE REPORT

A 43 years old Malay gentleman with no known medical illness noticed a lump over dorsum aspect of his right middle finger, gradually enlarging over 10 months. He was however troubled only 2 months prior to seeking treatment at our centre when he realised that he was unable to flex his middle finger fully, which gave the impression that he was giving the rude finger sign all the time!

Upon our examination, noted a 3cm x 3cm lump over the dorsum of his right middle finger at the middle phalanx level. He was then underwent excision of the lump, which revealed that the lump was attached to the extensor tendon sheath. His histopathological examination turned out to be angiofibrolipoma, a rather atypical lipoma, and at an atypical location. And much to the patients delight he is able to flex his middle finger post operatively.



Fig 1: Presenting condition



Fig 2 : Intraoperative finding

DISCUSSION

An angiofibrolipoma is one of the rarest histopathological variants of a lipoma. It is composed of mature adipocytes, vascular tissue, and collagenous connective tissue². Tendon sheath tumors are uncommon. Local symptoms, which appear as the mass grows, are one of the most important characteristics of tendon sheath tumors, as evident in this patient.

CONCLUSION

Any lumps should always be treated with high index of suspicion, especially if the location is uncommon.

REFERENCE

1. Angiofibrolipoma of the tendon sheath, Case Reports in Plastic Surgery and Hand Surgery, 1:1, 11-12,
2. Jacob A, Kneile J, Welling DB. Angiofibrolipoma of the ear canal. Laryngoscope. 2005; 115:1461-2