

## A Rare Occurrence: A Glomus Tumour of Thumb with Bony Involvement

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### INTRODUCTION:

Glomus tumours are benign painful swelling arising from glomus bodies. They are very rare and account for approximately 1% of all hand tumours with female preponderance. The most common location is the subungual region of digits and patient usually presents with triad of symptoms: hypersensitivity to colds, paroxysmal pain and point tenderness in the finger.

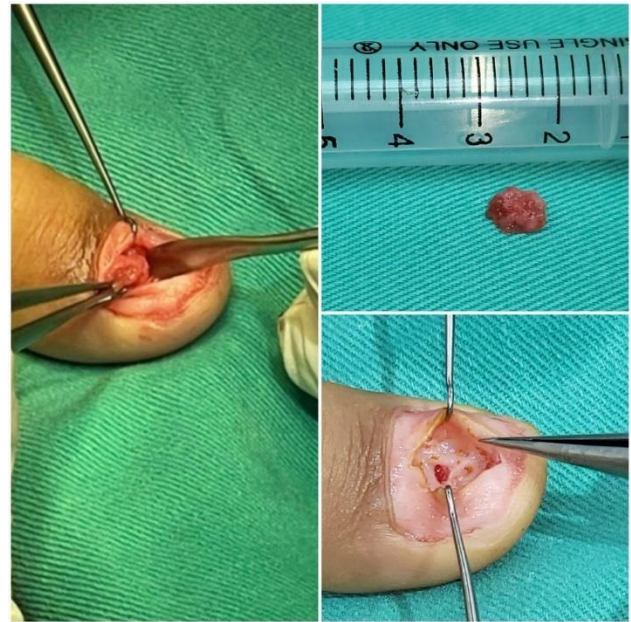
### REPORT:

A 10-year-old boy presented with a 4 months history of atraumatic and progressively increasing painful swelling, cold sensitivity and tenderness to palpation over subungual region of right thumb. Examination revealed a tender swelling and clubbed thumb with nail ridging. Love's pin test revealed localized tenderness to the subungual region.

Plain radiograph of the right hand was unremarkable, while the MRI showed a lesion located along the flexor pollicis longus which was hypointense on T1 and hyperintense on T2-weighted image. There was cortical thinning and scalloping of the underlying distal phalanx as well.

Excision biopsy was performed and histopathological examination showed glomus bodies with prominent vascular smooth muscle cell which confirmed a diagnosis of glomus tumour, a glomangiomyoma variants.

Patient's symptoms were relieved after the surgery and remained asymptomatic 3 months post-surgery.



**FIGURE 1: FROM LEFT TO TOP RIGHT:**

1. Tumor excision. 2. Excised tumour measuring about 6mm. 3. Scalloping and indentation of distal phalanx of thumb over the dorsal aspect

### CONCLUSION:

Glomus tumour are benign hamartomas arising from glomus apparatus in the subcutaneous tissues. Glomus body is a highly specialized arteriovenous anastomosis and is a contractile neuromyoarterial receptor that controls blood pressure and temperature. Glomus bodies are highly concentrated in the tips of digit, especially under nail, thus commonly found in the subungual area. The treatment is total surgical excision which will result in resolution of symptoms.

### REFERENCES:

1. Bhaskaranand K, Navadgi BC. Glomus tumour of the hand. *J Hand Surg Br.* 2002;27:229–31.
2. Dwidmuthe S, Nemade A, Rai S. Glomus tumor of thumb occurring at unusual location. *J Surg Tech Case Rep.* 2013 Jul;5