

Ring Finger Swelling, Neoplasm or Surprise

¹Jagdish KM, ¹Srijan M

¹Department of Orthopaedics, Hospital Seri Manjung

INTRODUCTION:

A trichilemmal cyst is a benign cyst formed from hair follicles. It is often found on hair bearing areas of the body, commonly the scalp. We present a peculiar case of a trichilemmal cyst found on the volar aspect of left ring finger.

REPORT:

A 61-year-old gentleman presented with left ring finger swelling for 3 months, progressively increasing in size. Patient denies constitutional symptoms, trauma or insect bite. Clinical examination revealed a globular mass over flexor zone 2 of the left ring finger, measuring 4x5cm, smooth surface, non-pulsatile and non-expansile. Range of motion of the ring finger was 0-45 at MCPJ, 0-90 at PIPJ and 0-80 at DIPJ. Circulation intact with CRT<2s and sensation over radial and ulnar aspect of the finger was intact. Plain radiograph showed soft tissue shadow with no bony involvement. Ultrasound showed a mass with benign features over the volar aspect of the ring finger, differentials include lipoma, epidermoid cyst or Schwannoma. Subsequently, an MRI done showed a well-defined lobulated soft tissue lesion abutting the flexor tendon of the ring finger, possible differentials include Giant Cell Tumour (GCT) of tendon sheath and tendon sheath fibroma. Patient was diagnosed with tendon sheath GCT of left ring finger and an excision biopsy was done. Intraoperatively, noted a lobulated mass measuring 6x5cm that was attached to the flexor tendon sheath. It was removed en masse and sent for histopathological examination (HPE), which revealed a Trichilemmal cyst. There is very limited literature on Trichilemmal cysts occurring on non-hair bearing areas of the body.



Figure 1: Clinical Picture

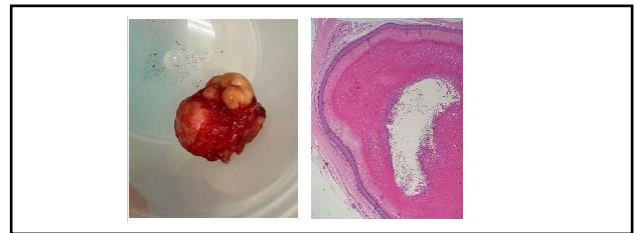


Figure 2: Macroscopic image and HPE

CONCLUSION:

Trichilemmal cysts may occur in atypical locations devoid of hair follicles. Surgical excision and HPE is pertinent to rule out proliferating trichilemmal tumours, as they have a risk of malignant transformation.

REFERENCES:

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