Ancient Schwannoma, A Peculiar Geriatric Tumour

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INTRODUCTION:

Lahad Datu, Sabah, a rural developing town has surpassed expectations in rarity of cases that present to Health Care Institution. Such a case of recent is, an Ancient Schwannoma (AS) of left sural nerve. Being exceedingly rare in nature, the location of the AS was equally appalling to say the least. Slow growth with a high degree of degenerative changes histologically are the hallmarks for an ancient schwannoma.

CASE REPORT:

A 39yo, Malaysian lady presented to our Clinic with a slow growing mass over left posterior calf for more than 20years. Paresthesia over lateral aspect of the foot and pain upon compression were the chief complaints. Tinel's sign was positive. Ultrasound was suggestive of schwannoma or neurofibroma. Patient underwent excision biopsy and a well-rounded tumour arising from sural nerve was identified. The tumour was cystic in nature and firm in consistency with no feeding vessels. Microscopic H&E staining revealed an AS with hypocellular Antoni A area in a palisading orientation and atypical nuclear pleomorphism and necrosis over Antoni B area.

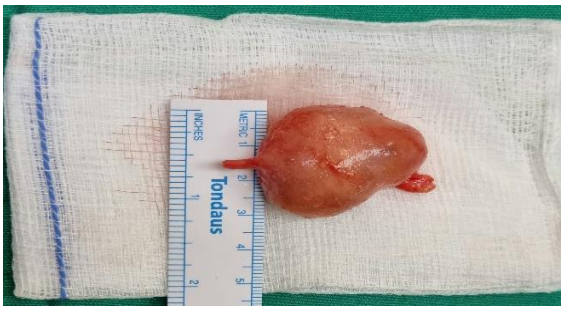

Figure 1: Schwannoma excised.

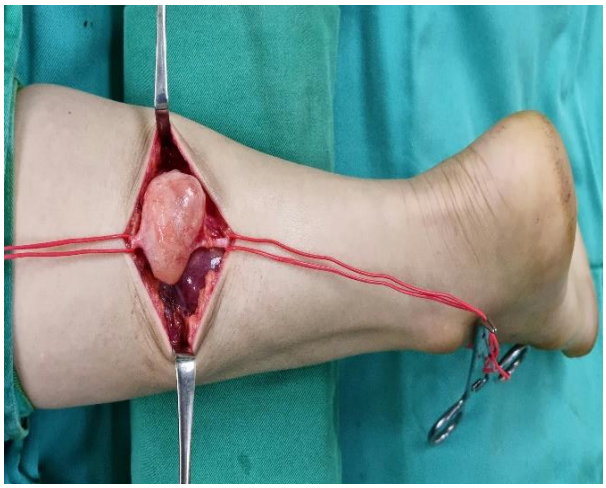

Figure 2: Left posterior calf.

CONCLUSION:

Ancient Schwannomas are extremely rare, benign tumour of the peripheral nerve sheath arising from Schwann cell. They are well characterized by a ubiquitous atypical Antoni B areas in admixed of hypocellular Antoni A areas. Despite their dissimilarity with common schwannomas, radical excision remains the mainstay of treatment with excellent outcome and low recurrence rate.

REFERENCES:

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