Case report

Giant Trichoblastoma of leg: A rare uncommon site presentation.

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Trichogenic adnexal tumors are rare neoplasms, the vast majority of which are benign have been separated in the past into Trichoblastic fibromas, Trichogenic Trichoblastomas and Trichogenic myxomas according to their relative contents of epithelial and mesenchymal components. [1] Trichoblastoma is well circumscribed symmetrical dermal tumors with no epidermal connection, and in their giant form, extends to subcutis. [2] It is rarely encountered in distal extremities. Any age group except young children is affected, with most patients in the fifth to seventh decade. [3] Here we report a case of giant trichoblastoma presented on lower extremity (knee).

CASE REPORT:

A 50 year old Hindu male presented with swelling over medial side of left knee since one year. Swelling was firm to hard in consistency with 5x5x4 cm in size. X-Ray AP -Lateral Left knee show early osteoarthritic changes in left knee joint and soft tissue swelling near knee. There was no history of diabetes or hypertension, no lymphadenopathy, no organomegaly On systemic examination no abnormality was found. On routine investigation, Hb was 13.2 gm%, TC was 10,900/cmm, Platelet count was 3,10,000/cmm and ESR 14 mm per hour. Clinical diagnosis was (?) malignant soft tissue tumor.

Patient was treated with local excision and tumor was sent for histopathological examination.

On gross examination mass was skin covered, well circumscribed, nodular soft tissue structure, measuring 5x5x4 cm with at one place covering skin showing centrally ulcerated area measuring 0.4 cm in diameter. Cut surface showed multilobated grayish-white solid areas. [Figure-1] Multiple sections from the specimen were studied. Microscopic examination showed well-circumscribed mass of epithelial cell forming various-sized lobular nests, lobules and sheets with variable amount of stroma. Cells were oval to elliptical shaped small, basophilic with scanty cytoplasm and peripheral palisading. [Figure-2] Tumor was situated in deeper dermis away from superficial epidermis. [Figure-3] The histopathology diagnosis was given trichoblastoma. It was treated with local excision.

Figure : Gross photograph of tumor showing well circumscribed tumor with a uniform white cut surface.
constituted mostly of germinative follicular cells, and distinguish five patterns: large nodular, small nodular, cribriform, racemiform, and retiform. [1] Histologic differentiation of trichoblastoma ranges from rudimentary to mature forms of bulbs and papillae, outer and inner root sheaths, and hair. [1]

Trichoblastomas are most commonly mistaken for conventional Trichoepithelioma and Basal cell carcinoma. Trichoblastoma is much larger than the conventional Trichoepithelioma and situated in the deep dermis and subcutaneous tissue while the latter is centered in the mid dermis. [3] Trichoblastoma shows less keratinization and is devoid of epidermal or follicular origin. Trichoblastoma and basal cell carcinoma (BCC) have some overlapping clinical features. But, it is important to distinguish between the two lesions because treatments and prognosis are completely different. The lack of epidermal origin, more conspicuous stroma with prominent papillary mesenchymal bodies and absence of retraction artifact between the tumor epithelium and stroma are useful diagnostic features in excluding basal cell carcinoma.

Trichoblastomas are solitary, small and well-circumscribed lesions that occur in the deep dermis and subcutaneous tissue, on any hair follicle-bearing location but the preferred anatomical sites are the head (especially face and scalp), the neck, and more rarely trunk and proximal extremities. The perianal region also appears to be a site of predilection. It rarely present on lower extremities. They can arise at any age, but are more common in adults (fifth to seventh decades) with no sex predilection. The majority of trichoblastomas are less than 2 cm in size, but as in our case, giant Trichoblastomas can sometimes be seen, reaching several centimeters (up to 10 cm). [6] They should be isolated because they may be confused with malignant neoplasm owing to their size and frequent post excision relapse. Abrupt keratinization within the nests, with keratin cyst formation, is less frequently seen than in conventional trichoblastoma. During surgery, the tumor typically can be shelled out from the adjacent tissue. [6]

This case illustrates a rare clinical variant of Trichoblastoma with unusual site (lower extremity) and unusual size (5X5X4cm). This can be misleading for malignancy. The clinical diagnosis was malignant soft tissue sarcoma. But the slowly progressive course of the tumor in our patient, together with histological benignity led to the correct diagnosis and simple excision is curative.

CONCLUSION:

We have described an unusual variety of Trichogenic tumor with relation to site and size. Knowledge of histopathologic features of Trichoblastoma will allow correct management of the patient such benign adnexal tumors must be kept in mind to prevent misdiagnosis as other benign or malignant tumors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Nil
REFERENCES


