

CUTANEOUS LEIOMYOMA; A RARE ENTITY

Dr. Sucheta
Pathania*

Medical Officer(Dermatology, Venereology and leprosy) Zonal Hospital
Dharamshala Himachal Pradesh, India *Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

Leiomyoma is a benign tumour composed of smooth muscle. Pileoleiomyoma, angiomyoleiomyoma and genital leiomyoma are different types of cutaneous leiomyomas. Clinically characterized by painful nodular lesions which can either be solitary or multiple. Cutaneous leiomyomas are usually diagnosed by skin biopsy as each variant have unique histopathological appearance.

KEYWORDS : leiomyoma, painful, smooth muscle

INTRODUCTION

Cutaneous leiomyomas are rare smooth muscle tumours. These form an important clinical differential diagnosis of painful tumours like dermatofibroma, angioliipoma, glomus tumor, eccrine spiradenoma, neurofibroma etc. Majority of the lesions show a favorable course inspite of varied clinical manifestations. Complete surgical excision of the lesions is the most effective treatment.

Case report

A 35 year old male presented with multiple skin colored painful raised skin lesions for last 3-4 years on right leg. There was flare up of lesions with cold. There was no history of bleeding or ulceration. Family history was also insignificant. Local examination revealed multiple skin-coloured nodules of variable sizes over right leg. Nodules were tender, mobile, smooth to firm in consistency with no surface change (Figure 1). Blood investigations were within normal limits. Histopathological examination done after excision biopsy showed poorly demarcated tumour mass in dermis composed of interlacing bundles of smooth muscle fibres. Based on cutaneous and histopathological examination a diagnosis of cutaneous leiomyomatosis was made and patient was managed accordingly.

DISCUSSION

Leiomyomas are benign soft tissue neoplasms which are derived from the smooth muscles. Based on anatomical site of involvement there are three distinct types of cutaneous leiomyomas; pileoleiomyomas, angioliomyomas, and genital leiomyomas. Pileoleiomyomas arise from the arrector pili muscle of the pilosebaceous unit, angioliomyomas arise from smooth muscles of the blood vessels and those derived from the dartos muscle of scrotum and the labia majora belong to genital leiomyomas.¹

All of these have distinct clinical and histological appearance. These tumours are more common in adults. But they have been reported in children too previously.²

Mostly the lesions are solitary but there can be multiple lesions too. Multiple lesions are common in adults. These lesions can have different arrangements. Linear, segmental and zosteriform variants have been described previously. These smooth muscle tumours are painful. Different mechanisms have been proposed for the pain associated with them. Some authors suggest that local pressure by the tumor on cutaneous nerves results in pain while others believe that muscle contraction may be responsible for induction of pain.³ Angioliipoma, dermatofibroma, glomus tumor, eccrine spiradenoma, neurofibroma, nevus etc. are important differential diagnosis.

Surgical excision is the mainstay of treatment if the lesions are few in number. Recurrence is common in case of multiple lesions as compared to solitary lesion. Drugs like nifedipine,

oral nitroglycerine, and oral alpha-1 adrenoceptor antagonist doxazosin etc. have been tried with variable results. Cryotherapy, electrocoagulation, CO₂ laser are other treatment modalities.⁴

Figure legends

Figure1: multiple variable sized skin colored nodules present on right shin.

**REFERENCES**

- Holst VA, Junkins-Hopkins JM, Elenitsas R. Cutaneous smooth muscle neoplasms: clinical features, histologic findings and treatment options. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2002;46:477-90
- Lupton GP, Naik DG, Rodman OG. An unusual congenital leiomyoma. *Pediatr Dermatol* 1986;3:158-60
- Hasegawa T, Seki K, Yang P, Hirose T, Hizawa K. Mechanism of pain and cytoskeletal properties in angioliomyomas: an immunohistochemical study. *Pathol Int* 1994;44:66-72.
- Christenson LJ, Smith K, Arpey CJ. Treatment of multiple cutaneous leiomyomas with CO₂ laser ablation. *Dermatol Surg* 2000;26:319-22.