VOLUME - 14, ISSUE - 04, APRIL - 2025 • PRINT ISSN No. 2277 - 8160 • DOI : 10.36106/gjra

Original Research Paper

Dermatology

GIANT NEVUS LIPOMATOSUS CUTANEOUS SUPERFICIALIS – A RARE CUTANEOUS HAMARTOMA

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ABSTRACT Nevus lipomatosus cutaneous superficialis (NLCS) is a benign skin tumor characterized by the presence of mature adipose tissue in the dermis. Here, we report a case of 51 year old male presented with asymptomatic painless swelling over the left gluteal region for the past 15 years, which had gradually increased in size over the past 6 months to reach the present size. On examination, a single, soft, lobulated, non-tender skin - coloured swelling of size 9*8 cm with a peduncle was seen over the left gluteal region, which was confirmed by histopathological examination. While the lesion resembled the solitary type of NLCS in appearance, its prolonged growth period and histological features were in favour of classical type. This unique combination of clinical and histopathological characteristics suggests a previously unreported variant of NLCS in which features of both classical and solitary types were present simultaneously. Further documentation and studies of such cases may enhance our understanding of NLCS.

KEYWORDS : Nevus Lipomatosus Superficialis, Hamartoma, Gluteal Region

INTRODUCTION

Nevus lipomatosus superficialis is a rare, benign skin lesion marked by clusters of mature adipose tissue interspersed among the collagen bundles in the dermis. Hoffman and Zurhelle first described this condition in 1921. (1,2,3)They are classified into two types classical and solitary. The classical type usually present since birth or appears during the first three decades of life whereas solitary type arises after second decade in adult life. (4) Surgical excision is the mainstay of treatment. (5,6)

Case Report

A 51 year old male presented to the Dermatology department with complaints of asymptomatic painless swelling over the left gluteal region for the past 15 years, which gradually increased in size over the past 6 months to reach the present size. On examination, a single soft lobulated, non-tender, skin coloured swelling measuring 9*8 cm with a peduncle was observed over the left gluteal region (Figure 1A). The surface was smooth without any induration, ulceration or bleeding. Regional lymphadenopathy was not observed. Histopathological examination showed epidermis with variable acanthosis, papillomatosis and increased basal pigmentation. Dermis showed multiple lobules of adipose tissue interspersed with thick collagen bundles and scattered prominent blood vessels. Based on the history, clinical examination and histopathological findings, NCLS was diagnosed. Complete surgical excision and suturing were done. The patient was followed-up for three months and there was no recurrence.

DISCUSSION

Nevus lipomatosus superficialis is a rare idiopathic hamartomatous lesion of the skin characterized by mature fat cells present in between the collagen bundles of the dermis. (1,2,6) There are two types of NCLS namely classical and solitary. The classical type usually presents at birth or infancy and consists of multiple, zonal, non-tender, pedunculated, cerebriform, skin colored papules or nodules usually along the cutaneous cleavage lines. The solitary form has no site predilection and occurs at unusual sites. It will present in adults. (3,4) Despite these differences, both types share similar histological characteristics, with adipose tissue comprising 10% to 50% of the dermis ,interspersed among collagen bundles. Nevus lipomatosis superficialis shows no gender predilection and is usually not linked to any congenital anomalies. Due to its rarity, the epidemiology of this condition remains poorly defined. (7,8)

CONCLUSION

We report a case of NCLS to highlight its rarity and the importance of early diagnosis because the lesions can grow to large sizes causing aesthetic concerns to the patient.

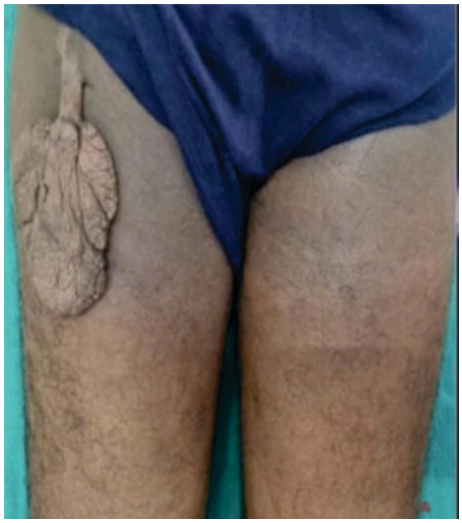
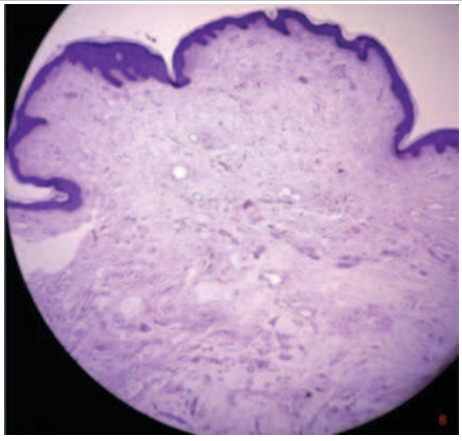


Figure legends 1A: A soft lobulated, skin-coloured swelling measuring 10 × 8 cm with a peduncle in the left gluteal region.



1B: 4x, Hematoxylin and eosin stain shows epidermis with variable acanthosis and mild papillomatosis. Dermis shows multiple lobules of adipose tissue interspersed with thick collagen bundles and scattered prominent blood vessels.

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