Primary Intraosseous Cavernous Hemangioma of the Proximal Tibia: A Rare Case Report.

Introduction:
Primary cavernous hemangiomas are rare conditions and present as silent slow growing swellings of the affected bone. Preoperative diagnosis poses a difficulty with treatment mandating complete excision where possible.

Case report:
We present a middle aged female patient presenting with complaints of an insidious onset dull aching type of pain in the right knee joint with no traumatic history. On examination, tenderness was noted along the lateral joint line with no palpable mass. Terminal knee range of motion was painfully restricted.

Discussion:
Primary bone hemangiomas constitute less than 1% of all bone tumors. Bone hemangioma is most commonly seen in 4th decade of life and the male/female ratio is 1.5.1. The locations of these lesions are commonly long bones of the vertebral column and the skull. Intraosseous hemangiomas are classified as benign tumors of vascular nature with some authors classifying them as hamartomas. They originate and expand inside bone structures. They are usually congenital, rarely of posttraumatic origin.

Women in the fourth and fifth decades of life are mostly affected. Local trauma is thought to be one possible factor. In our patient, there was no such predisposition for intraosseous hemangioma development. As intraosseous hemangioma tends to grow very slowly, it remains clinically silent until the tumor becomes large. Therefore, early detection is crucial to a lesser cosmetic deformity.

A lytic lesion affecting the bone, with bone spicules extending from center to periphery in the lytic lesion (sunburst pattern or honeycombing) are characteristic for the lesion. However, this finding may be seen in meningioma, osteogenic sarcoma, and osteoblastic metastases. The MRI signal of hemangioma is variable and the hyperintensity of hemangiomas at T1-weighted sequences is an important distinguishing feature for these tumors.

These tumors can be misdiagnosed as a dermoid cyst, a giant cell tumor of bone, multiple myeloma, and metastasis. Preoperative diagnosis of this tumor may be difficult because of its similarity to other bone pathologies. The most useful radiological tool is CT, clearly showing cortical and trabecular structures. The diagnosis of cavernous hemangiomas is established by histopathology, based on this, they are classified as cavernous or capillary type according to their vascular network. The cavernous hemangioma is composed of large thin-walled vessels and sinuses lined with a single layer of endothelium. However, a small fine vascular network filled with blood forms the capillary hemangioma. Capillary hemangiomas are usually present at birth. In contrast, most cavernous hemangiomas occur in adulthood.

The goal of the treatment in hemangioma is to remove the tumor completely without any functional deficit, cosmetic deformity, or significant tissue loss. Biopsy of the lesion in order to exclude malignancy should be done cautiously because of the risk of severe bleeding.

In the past, radiotherapy and sclerotherapy were the treatment of choice. But today radiotherapy may only be reserved for cases in which surgery is not feasible due to the adverse effects such as tissue necrosis, retardation of growth of bones and teeth, telangiectasia, and malignant degeneration, and sclerosing agents are used for soft-tissue hemangiomas of the head and neck. Other treatment modalities include angiography with embolization, curettage, and cryotherapy.

Conclusion:
Primary cavernous hemangioma of the proximal tibia is a rare presentation for which ideal modality of investigation is CT scan and treatment is complete excision of the lesion. In our practice, the defect was filled with bone cement in suspicion of malignant lesion and also to reconstruct...
Figure 1 - Axial view of the lesion on MRI

Figure 2 - Sagittal view of the lesion in the proximal tibia on MRI

Figure 3 - Coronal view of the lesion on MRI

REFERENCE