



A RARE CASE REPORT: GLOMUS TUMOR OVER LEFT THUMB

General Surgery

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION : A glomus tumor (also known as a "solitary glomus tumor,"[1] "solid glomus tumor,"[1] or glomangioma) is a rare neoplasm arising from the glomus body and mainly found under the nail, on the fingertip or in the foot.[2] They account for less than 2% of all soft tissue tumors.[3] The majority of glomus tumors are benign but they can also show malignant features.[4]

METHODOLOGY: A 26 yrs old female hindu patient presented with the history of severe non radiating pain over left thumb since 6 years. On Clinical examination bluish discoloration of nail bed of left thumb was seen. On Palpation tenderness was present. After preoperative preparation excision and biopsy of tumor was done under local anaesthesia . Intra operative findings revealed small bluish swelling of 5×5 mm size, reddish in color underneath the nail bed of left thumb.

Results : Patient was treated successfully with excision and biopsy of tumor under local anaesthesia along with post operative analgesics and antibiotics.

Analysis : This case report provide evidence that glomus tumors can be effectively and safely treated by surgical excision and have good prognosis.

Discussion : Surgical excision is the preferred method of treatment for benign glomus tumors.

KEYWORDS:

Introduction

First ever description for glomus tumor was given by Hoyer in 1877 while its clinical entity was first described by Masson in 1924. [5] Glomus tumors are rare benign painful neoplasms of the glomus body [1], a thermoregulatory shunt in the digits. Glomus tumors are mainly found under the nail, on the fingertip or in the foot.[2] They account for less than 2% of all soft tissue tumors. The majority of glomus tumors are benign but can also show malignant features.[4] They presents as solitary and small lesions. Majority are found in the distal extremities, particularly in the hand, wrist, foot, and under the fingernails.[3] Symptoms presents as classic triad of moderate pain, temperature sensitivity and point tenderness. Diagnosis is based mainly upon biopsy. the histological findings for this pathology reveal organoid appearance of polyhedral cells with dark staining nuclei with fibrous stroma, and few blood cells. The mainstay for the treatment of benign glomus tumors is surgical excision.[7]

Case Report

A 26 yrs old female hindu pt. presented with the history of severe pain over left thumb since 6 years which was aching in nature and non radiating. Pain was initially intermittent and gradually became continuous with gradual increase in intensity. Patient had no history of trauma or bleeding from swelling. On Clinical examination there was a single swelling in the nail bed of the left thumb measuring about 5×5 mm giving bluish discoloration to the nail bed of left thumb. On Palpation of tenderness was present. Patient has operative history for the same before 2 years.

Operative Course

After preoperative preparation excision and biopsy of tumor done under local anaesthesia . Intra operative findings revealed small bluish swelling of 5×5 mm size, reddish in color underneath nail bed of left thumb



Post Operative Course

Patient was treated with antibiotics and analgesics for 2 days. Patient was discharged with stable vitals on 2nd POD. Patient had an

uneventful postoperative course.

Discussions

First ever description for glomus tumor was given by Hoyer in 1877 while its clinical entity was first described by Masson in 1924. [5] A glomus tumor (also known as a "solitary glomus tumor,"[1] "solid glomus tumor,"[1] or glomangioma) is a rare neoplasm arising from the glomus body and mainly found under the nail, on the fingertip or in the foot.[2] Most of glomus tumors are benign but they can also exhibit malignant features.[4] Histologically, glomus tumors compose of an afferent arteriole, anastomotic vessel, and collecting venule. Glomus tumors are modified smooth muscle cells that control the thermoregulatory function of dermal glomus bodies. Glomus tumors are generally solitary small lesions majority of which are found in the distal extremities, particularly in the hand, wrist, foot, and under the fingernails.[3] The classical triad of presentation of this lesion includes moderate pain, temperature sensitivity and point tenderness . On examination, usually these tumors have a bluish discoloration, but sometimes a whitish appearance may also be noted. Nail bed may be elevated. In rare cases, these tumors may present in the gastric antrum or glans penis. Treatment is essentially the same.[6] They account for less than 2% of all soft tissue tumors. The exact incidence of glomus tumors is unknown. The multiple variant of this tumor is rare, accounting for less than 10% of all cases. Solitary glomus tumors, in particular the subungual lesions, are predominant in females while multiple lesions are slightly more commonly seen in males. Solitary glomus tumors are more common in adults while multiple glomus tumors are seen 11–15 years earlier than single lesions. About one third of the cases with multiple lesions are seen in those younger than 20 years. Congenital glomus tumors are rare; they are plaque like in appearance and are considered a variant of multiple glomus tumors. The mainstay of treatment for glomus tumor is surgical excision. [7]

Conclusion

This case report provides evidence that glomus tumors can be effectively and safely treated by surgical excision and have good prognosis.

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