

Giant cervical lipoma: a case report

Meherzi ¹, N. Salem ¹, M. Belakhdher ¹, M. Omri ¹, J. Howas ¹, W. Kermani ¹, M. Abdelkefi ¹.

¹Ent Department Farhat Teaching Hospital - Sousse (Tunisie)

Abstract

Giant lipomas are benign skin tumors that are most commonly found on the trunk and extremities, though they are rarely observed in the orofacial and neck regions. These tumors are typically slow-growing and painless. Only a few lipomas grow to an extremely large size, and such cases may be multilobulated. Lipomas that exceed 100 mm in one dimension are classified as giant lipomas. In this context, we propose to review this pathology through clinical and radiological observation, alongside management strategies, by reporting the case of a giant cervical lipoma in a 15-year-old male.

Objective

Describe the clinical presentation and radiological characteristics of giant cervical lipoma.

Méthodes et Matériels

We present a rare case involving the atypical localization of a cervical lipoma.

Observation

Patient history

- 15-year-old male
- No significant medical history
- Persistent, painless diffuse swelling in the right neck region, evolving over several months

Physical examination

- Compressible right lateral cervical mass measuring 10 cm with non palpable lower border
- No pathological lymph nodes
- Normal indirect laryngoscopy

Computed tomography scan of the cervical region

- Fatty density large-sized well-defined masses in the bilateral posterior cervical space deeply seated intramuscularly between the sternocleidomastoid and middle scalene muscles measured 20*6.7*2.4 centimeters on the right side and 5*2*1 centimeters on the left side



Fig 1 cervical scan axial view
Bilateral fatty masses in posterior cervical space



Fig 2 cervical scan axial view
• The masses approached the vascular axes without obstruction

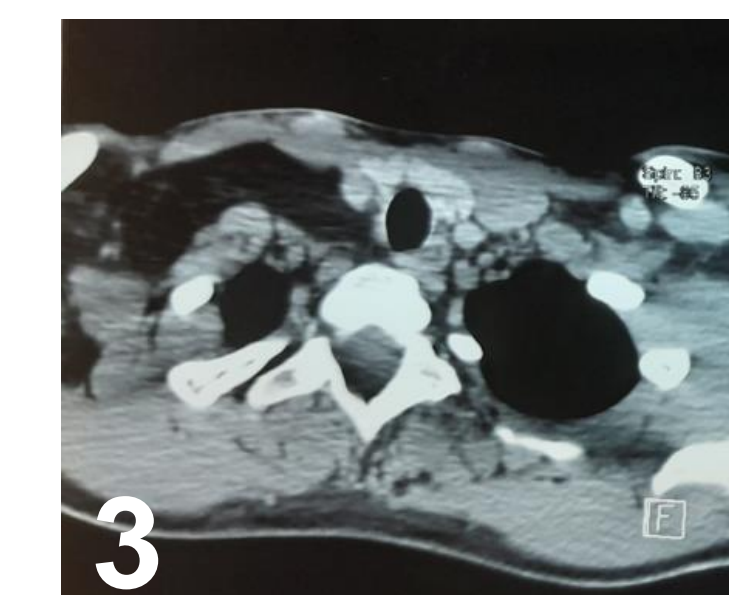


Fig 3 cervical scan axial view
• Right paratracheal extension in the middle mediastinum of the right mass

Therapeutic management

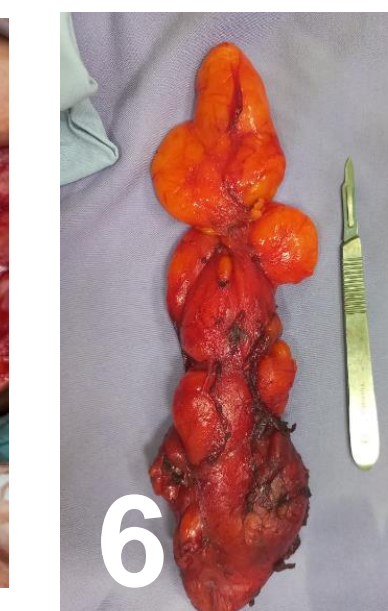
→ Complete surgical excision of the right cervical lipoma

- Lateral cervical incision (FIG 4)
- Intraoperatively: soft, yellow, and encapsulated with lobulations (FIG 5+6)

Histological examination

- Mature fat cells arranged in lobules separated by fibrous septa and surrounded by fibrous capsules
- No evidence of histological malignant invasion.

- Uneventful recovery.
- For the left-sided lipoma → the patient opted for surveillance.



Conclusion

- ✓ Lipoma is the most common type of soft tissue tumor, though it rarely occurs in the head and neck region.
- ✓ Most of the giant neck lipomas are slow-growing and asymptomatic and are mainly of esthetic concern to the patient.
- ✓ Concern about malignancy arises when the mass is particularly large, especially giant lipomas exceeding 10 cm or if it is rapidly increasing in size.
- ✓ Diagnosis primarily depends on CT imaging
- ✓ The treatment of choice for giant cervical lipoma is complete surgical excision

References

Cukic, O. (2020). *Giant Lipoma of the Anterior Neck Causing Dyspnea. Journal of Craniofacial Surgery, Publish Ahead of Print.*
Lipomas of cervical area – clinical and pathological considerations Rom J Morphol Embryol 2018