
Clinical Image

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Giant breast lipoma in a lactating mother simulating lactational carcinoma or a sarcoma

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Clinical image description

A 30-year-old tribal lactating mother complaining of rapidly growing and painless mass at the outer aspect of her right breast in the axillary tail area for the last couple of months. Examination showed the patient was systemically well, no weight loss, with overall good general condition. A huge pedunculated soft neoplasm with some lobulation, prominent vessels and an ulcerated area at the bottom was situated over the axillary tail area of her right breast (Figure 1). In view of the rapidly growing painless giant soft tissue tumor in a lactating mother, possibility of a rapidly growing lactational carcinoma or an aggressive sarcomatous lesion was considered as giant benign lipoma of the breast is very rare and unusual. Laboratory tests were within normal limits. Ultrasound showed soft tissue homogenous mass with prominent vessels over the surface and mammogram showed soft tissue mass with peripheral vascularity. A fine

needle aspiration biopsy followed by core biopsy through the ulcerated lesion and histological examination of both biopsies confirmed the diagnosis of benign breast lipoma. The patient underwent total excision and again the histopathological examination of the specimen reconfirmed it to be a simple lipoma and it was religiously sampled and studied morphologically and by molecular studies to rule out any well differentiated sarcoma or atypical sarcomatous lesion which were all negative for sarcoma. The postoperative period was uneventful. Follow up at 10 years showed asymptomatic patient, no signs of local recurrence. The ultrasound scan and chest radiographs are normal. This case is a reminder of the facts that a simple fine needle aspiration or core biopsy is not enough for the diagnosis but the whole sample needs to be examined in detail morphologically and by molecular studies to rule out associated malignant lesions.

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Figure 1: Patient image showing giant soft tissue tumour of the right axillary tail of the breast with secondary changes.

Declarations

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