

Nevus Lipomatosus Cutaneous Superficialis: An Unusual Zosteriform Presentation

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Abstract

Case Report

The superficial lipomatous hamartoma of Hoffmann-Zurhelle is a rare benign skin tumor characterized by dermal deposition of mature adipose tissue. Histologically, it is characterized by the heterotopic presence of fat cells around dermal vascular pathways. Two clinical forms have been described (classical and solitary types). We report the case of an unusual zosteriform presentation of a nevus lipomatosus cutaneous superficialis in a 21-year-old girl. Histopathological findings were typical and confirmed the diagnosis.

Keywords: lipomatous hamartoma, Hoffmann-Zurhelle.

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INTRODUCTION

Nevus lipomatosus superficialis is an uncommon benign hamartomatous skin lesion defined by the presence of mature ectopic adipocytes in the dermis. It was first reported by Hoffman and Zurhelle in 1921[1]. We report a case of a 21-year-old girl with an unusual zosteriform presentation of this skin malformation.

CASE DESCRIPTION

A 21-year-old woman presented to the dermatology department with a well-defined multiple non-tender nodular growth over her right thigh since the age of 15. Clinical examination revealed multiple oblong-shaped, yellowish to skin-colored, soft and cerebriform nodular lesions which were coalescing into a plaque and measuring 19 cm × 4 cm (Figure 1 and 2).

A few discrete, soft, yellowish papules were also scattered around the lesions. There was no history of any neurological deficit, and general physical examination did not reveal any cafe-au-lait spots neither hypopigmented macules. Routine laboratory examination of blood was within normal. Skin biopsy was performed and microscopy showed mature adipose tissue in the dermis interposed around the dermal blood vessels, eccrine glands, and between the collagen bundles. After considering the above-mentioned characteristic features, a diagnosis of Nevus lipomatosus superficialis was given. The patient was referred to the plastic surgery department for surgical excision. After surgical removal of the lesion, no evidence of recurrence has been observed 2 years postoperatively.



Fig-1: yellowish to skin-colored, soft and cerebriform nodular lesions coalescing into a plaque



Fig-2: Detail of the lesion, showing cerebriform surface

DISCUSSION

Nevus lipomatosus cutaneous superficialis (NLCS) is an uncommon benign hamartomatous condition. It is usually idiopathic and the exact pathogenesis is not known [2]. Theories such as mesenchymal perivascular differentiation of lipoblasts, focal heterotopic development of adipose tissue, and adipose metaplasia in the course of degenerative changes of dermal collagen bundles and elastic tissue have been proposed to account for the heterotopic occurrence of adipose tissues but not substantiated [3,4]. Two clinical types are distinguished: the classical type and the solitary type. The classical type, manifests with groups of multiple, soft, nontender, pedunculated, cerebriform, yellowish or skin-colored papules or nodules usually situated on the pelvic girdle area in a zonal pattern and occur at birth or during first three decades of life [5]. The solitary form is observed at a later age and is often located in the scalp, nose or clitoris [6]. Histological examination confirms the diagnosis by showing ectopic mature adipose tissue in the dermis interposed between collagen bands. The differential diagnosis is mainly with dermal hypoplasia in areas, melanocytic nevi, nevus sebaceous, and neurofibroma and molluscum pendulum [7]. Treatment, though not necessary, is done for cosmetic reasons and simple surgical excision appears to be curative [8].

CONCLUSION

The superficial lipomatous hamartoma is a benign lesion without malignant potential. It may remain unchanged for several years or progressively increase in size requiring surgical excision for essentially aesthetic purposes [7,8].

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