MULTIPLE PAINFUL NEURILEMMOMAS

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A 40-year-old male with painful neurilemmoma is reported. Clinically the patient had multiple painful nodular lesions over the right lower limb. Histopathology confirmed the diagnosis of neurilemmoma. The probable mechanism for painful nodular presentation is highlighted.

Key Word : Neurilemmoma

Introduction

Neurilemmoma represents a benign nerve sheath tumour derived from Schwann cells and occurring along the course of cranial, peripheral and sympathetic nerves.[1] Although lesions are usually asymptomatic some lesions may be painful or tender. We are reporting a case of multiple neurilemmomas because of presentation as painful nodules and paucity of reports in Indian literature.

Case Report

A 40-year-old man presented with painful nodular lesions over the right lower limb of 1 year duration. There was no history of weakness, deformity or impaired sensation over that limb. On examination multiple, tender, subcutaneous nodular lesions of varying size from 2 x 2 cm to 4 cm and distributed in a linear pattern were present over the lateral aspect of the right foot, posterior aspect of the right lower leg and knee. There were no similar lesions or hyperpigmented lesions over the other part of the body. Systemic examination was unremarkable. Probable diagnosis of neurilemmoma was made depending upon the clinical features.

Routine haematological and urine examinations were within normal limits. Histopathological examination of nodular lesion revealed findings consistent with the diagnosis of neurilemmoma (Fig.1).

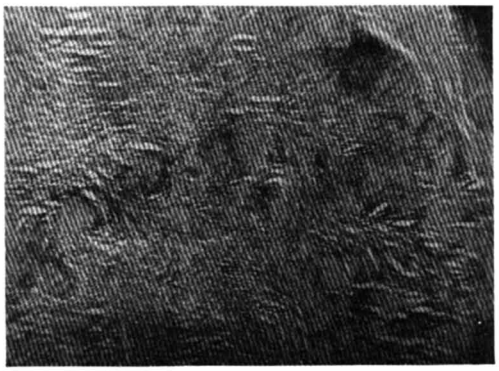

Fig.1. Tumour composed of cells with elongated and tightly packed nuclei, arranged in bands which stream and interweave.

Discussion

Neurilemmoma may occur in any age group, but most lesions appear between the ages of 30 and 60.[3] It arises most frequently from the acoustic nerve and the lesions are usually solitary, multiple lesions may occur in association with multiple neurofibromatosis.[2] In our case there were no features suggestive of neurofibromatosis.

Although they are usually asymptomatic some lesions may be painful or tender. Deep neurilemmomas are symptomatic by virtue of their large size and impingement on neighbouring structures.[4] This may be the reason for pain as presenting feature in our case.

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Inspite of their origin from the nerve sheath, neurilemmomas seldom compromise nerve function.[3] But rarely mascular atrophy may occur in multiple neurilemmomas.[5] Malignant change may also occur rarely, usually in cases associated with Von Recklinghausen's disease.

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