

A Case of Malignant Phylloides Tumor Masquerading As Benign Fibroadenoma

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Abstract: Cystosarcomaphylloides/serocystic disease of Brodie constitutes only 0.3-0.9% of all breast tumors and only 3-6% of that are malignant. It usually occurs in women over the age of 40 years. We present a case of 45 year old female presented with swelling of left breast for 8 months with no pain or nipple discharge. On examination Left breast was grossly enlarged and distorted. Nipple areolar complex displaced with dilated veins noted with no chest wall or skin fixity. No axillary lymphadenopathy. Ultrasonogram breast showed ill defined lobulated iso hypoechoic-entire breast with increased vascularity and internal cystic areas. FNAC showed features of Fibroadenoma. Patient underwent simple mastectomy along with excision of pectoral fascia. Post op HistoPathological Examination (HPE) report was MALIGNANT PHYLLOIDES TUMOR with margins free. Patient was followed up with radiotherapy after suture removal on 10th PostOperative Day. This malignant phylloides case is reported for its rarity and difficulty in preoperative diagnosis.

Keywords: Giant fibroadenoma, Malignant Phylloidestumor, Simple mastectomy

I. Introduction

Giant fibroadenoma and phylloides tumor both present as huge breast lumps. Preoperatively, it is important to differentiate between them, because of differences in margins of resection. Johannes Muller first described phylloides as fleshy tumors, containing cystic spaces, and having a leaf-like architecture. Its malignant potential was first described by Cooper and Ackerman. Malignant phylloides accounts for <1% of all breast malignancies. Here, we report a case of a breast lump which showed preoperative findings suggestive of fibroadenoma but post operative histopathological examination (HPE) turned out to be malignant phylloides tumor.

II. Case Report

A 45 year old female presented with swelling of her left breast for 8 months, which was insidious in onset and progressive in nature. There was no pain or discharge from nipple. On physical examination her left breast was grossly enlarged and distorted, measuring approximately 15*10*10cm. Nipple areolar complex was displaced downwards and towards the left and the areola appeared to be stretched. Multiple small swellings were noted in surface of left breast. Dilated veins were noted as shown in figures 1 and 2. There was no puckering, dimpling, ulceration, fungation or nipple discharge. The breast tissue fell forward freely and the swelling was not fixed to the skin, muscle or chest wall. The swelling was variable in consistency, and the skin over the swelling was pinchable. There were no palpable axillary lymph nodes. The right breast was normal in examination. Ultrasound breast showed ill defined lobulated iso hypoechoic lesion covering the entire breast with increased vascularity and internal cystic areas. Fine needle aspiration cytology showed features suggestive of fibroadenoma. Incision biopsy showed normal breast tissue found. Metastasis workup (Ultrasonogram abdomen, skeletal survey) done and showed no metastasis. The lesion was clinically diagnosed as Giant Fibroadenoma/? phylloidestumor and simple mastectomy along with excision of pectoral fascia was done, as shown in figure 3. The post operative HPE report showed malignant phylloidestumor with margins free of tumor. Medical oncology opinion obtained and patient was followed up with radiotherapy. (Fig 4 showing completion of radiotherapy wound)



Figure 1,2: Clinical Picture



Figure 3: Post Surgery



Figure 4: Post Radiotherapy

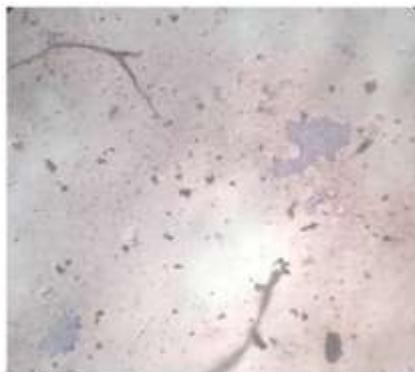


Figure 5: FNAC monolayered sheets of epithelial cells



Figure 6: Post Op Hpe-Leaf Like

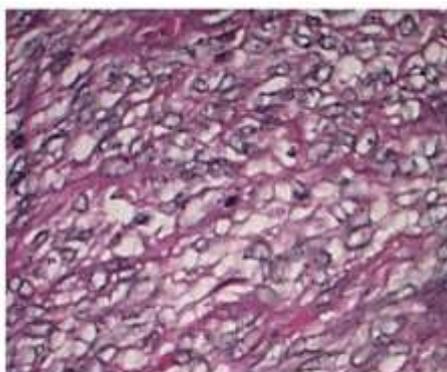


Figure 7: Post Op Hpe: Atypical Spindle Cells With Mitosis

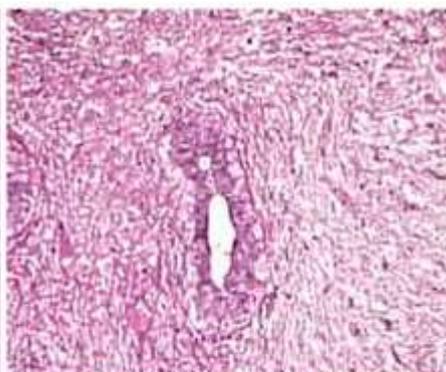


figure 8: post op hpe: ducts with ilayered lining

III. Discussion

Phylloides tumor is a fibroepithelial tumour of breast that accounts for <1% of all breast malignancy and <5% of soft tissue sarcoma. Benign Phylloides tumor resemble fibroadenoma [1]. These tumors are classified as benign, borderline, or malignant. Mammographical evidence of calcifications and morphologic evidence of necrosis do not distinguish between benign, borderline, and malignant phyllodes tumors. Evaluation of the number of mitoses and the presence or absence of invasive foci at the tumor margins may help to identify a malignant tumor. There is difficulty in distinguishing benign PT from fibroadenoma and even benign histology can be associated with aggressive biologic behaviour. [1] Benign PT may progress to malignancy not only in the stromal direction, but also in the epithelial direction [2]. Small phyllodes tumors are widely excised with a 1-cm margin of normal-appearing breast tissue. Large phyllodes tumors may require mastectomy. Axillary dissection is not recommended as axillary lymph node metastases rarely occur. Metastasis if occurs-hematogenous. In our case though pre operative cytology report came as fibroadenoma, since the clinical picture resembled phylloides tumor we proceeded with simple mastectomy (with pectoral fascia).

When the diagnosis of a phyllodes tumor with suspicious malignant elements is made, re-excision of the biopsy site to insure complete excision of the tumor with a 1-cm margin of normal-appearing breast tissue is indicated [3]. In our case since post operative HPE report came as margin free we proceeded with radiotherapy. Unfortunately, local excision without attention to margins is often performed, particularly since phyllodes tumors are often misdiagnosed as fibroadenomas preoperatively. Recurrence rates are unacceptably high following either local excision or enucleation without negative margins [4,5]. Wide excision yields local recurrence rates of 8 percent for benign phyllodes tumors and 21 to 36 percent for borderline and malignant tumors [6,7].

IV. Conclusion

In this article we describe a rare case of malignant phylloides. Phylloides tumor may become malignant and it is imperative for surgeon to consider it in any case of phylloides tumor. Follow up of biopsy is essential to differentiate the types of phylloides tumor since it is difficult to distinguish pre operatively and they are notorious for recurrence if there is an inadequate margin of excision.

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