

Benign but fast-growing: pediatric lipoblastoma and the role of complete excision

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Introduction

Lipoblastoma is a rare benign mesenchymal tumor arising from embryonic fat, resulting from the postnatal proliferation of immature adipose cells. It can occur anywhere in the body, although the trunk and extremities are the most common sites. Despite its benign nature, its rapid growth and large size can be concerning.

Objective:

To describe the epidemiological, clinical, and therapeutic features of pediatric lipoblastoma.

Methods

This is a retrospective review of 14 cases of lipoblastoma managed over an 18-year period in our pediatric surgery department.

Results

- ✓ The cohort included 8 boys and 6 girls, aged between 7 months and 9 years.
- ✓ The most common presenting symptom was a painless soft tissue mass (12 cases), while 2 patients presented with abdominal pain.
- ✓ Imaging studies suggested the diagnosis, which was confirmed by histopathology.

- ✓ Tumor locations were diverse: mediastinum (1), thighs (2), buttocks (2), inguinoscrotal region (2), greater omentum (2), latissimus dorsi region (3), cervical (1), and axillary (1).
- ✓ Lesion size ranged from 5 to 15 cm. Complete surgical excision was achieved in all cases.
- ✓ The mean follow-up duration was 35 months, with no cases of recurrence observed.

Conclusion

- Lipoblastoma should be considered in the differential diagnosis of rapidly growing soft tissue masses in children.
- Although benign, its potential for local recurrence necessitates complete surgical excision and long-term follow-up.