

Melanotic Schwannoma: A Case of Renal Origin

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Clinical Practice Points

- Schwannomas are uncommon tumors that originate from the Schwann cells of the peripheral nerve sheath and are exceedingly rare in the kidneys.
- We report on a case of an incidental large renal tumor which was diagnosed as melanotic schwannoma. To the best of our knowledge this is the first case of renal origin reported.
- Melanotic schwannoma is a rare variant probably caused by the neoplastic proliferation of a common precursor cell for Schwann cells and melanocytes and can develop a potentially malignant clinical behavior.

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Case Report

A 59-year-old man, otherwise healthy, was discovered to be affected with a large mass of the right kidney during an occasional

abdominal ultrasound while undergoing a spontaneous health checkup visit. He had no urologic symptoms. A multiphase computed tomography (CT) scan using a GE 64-slice multi detector computed tomography was performed. The CT scan revealed a 12 × 10 cm renal tumor located at the upper pole of the kidney with concomitant downward displacement of the renal hilum. After contrast injection, during the arterial phase the mass showed a contrast enhancement directly supplied through an additional polar branch of the renal artery. Furthermore, large central necrotic areas were detected (Fig. 1). Despite its large size, the mass was not compressing the ureter and not cause hydronephrosis. The workup was within normal limits. Preoperative tumor stage assessment was

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Figure 1 Computed Tomography Scan Showed a Tumor Localized at Upper Pole of the Kidney With Concomitant Downward Displacement of Renal Hilum

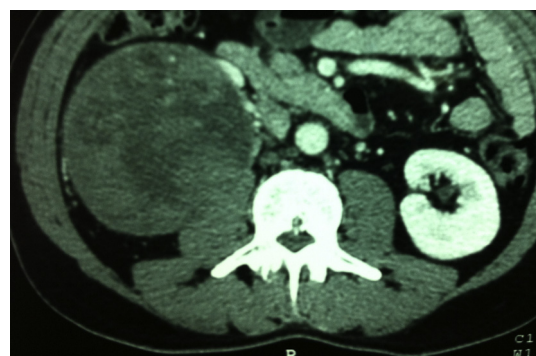


Figure 2 The Cut Surface of the Renal Mass Showed Areas of Hemorrhage, and Cystic Change



Table 1 Summary of Data From All Reported Cases

Investigator	Year	Age, Years	Sex	Symptoms	Side	Treatment	Size (cm) / Gross	Location	Diagnosis	Malignancy	Patient Status (Follow-Up)
Phillips ²	1955	56	M	Generalized malaise, weight loss, fever, flank pain, mild anemia	L	Left nephrectomy	12-cm Encapsulated tumor	Pelvis	Schwannoma	No	NR
Kuz'mina ³	1962	33	F	Generalized malaise, weight loss, mild fever, flank mass	R	Right nephrectomy	Encapsulated rubbery, pale gray tumor	Capsule	Schwannoma	No	NR
Fein ⁴	1965	51	F	Recurrent pyelonephritis, palpable mass, pyuria	R	Right nephrectomy	6-cm Well encapsulated mass	Pelvis	Schwannoma	No	Alive (24-month)
Bair ⁵	1978	56	M	Hypertension, microhematuria	R	Right nephrectomy	7-cm Mass	Hilum	Schwannoma	No	Alive (5-month)
Steers ⁶	1985	50	F	Microhematuria, palpable mass	R	Tumorectomy	9-cm multicystic mass	Hilum	Schwannoma	No	NR
Somers ⁷	1988	55	F	Incidental findings	L	Left nephrectomy	5.1-cm Well defined solid lobular mass	Intraparenchymal upper pole	Schwannoma	No	Alive (18-month)
Kitagawa ⁸	1990	51	M	Upper abdominal pain and high fever	L	Left nephrectomy	2.8-cm Well demarcated yellowish tumor	Hilum	Cellular schwannoma	NR	NR
Ma ⁹	1990	67	M	Epigastric pain	R	Right nephrectomy	8-cm Well encapsulate yellowish tumor	Intraparenchymal and pelvis	Cellular schwannoma	No	Alive (1-year)
Naslund ¹⁰	1991	50	F	Anemia, mild abdominal discomfort, weight loss	L	Left nephrectomy	14-cm Mass	Intraparenchymal upper pole	Malignant schwannoma	Yes	Died after 15 months
Romics ¹¹	1992	52	M	Back and flank pain, fever, anemia	R	Right nephrectomy	Large infiltrating mass	Capsule	Malignant schwannoma	Yes	Died after 3 months
Ikeda ¹²	1996	89	M	Abdominal pain	R	Right nephrectomy	NR	Pelvis	Schwannoma	No	NR
Singer ¹³	1996	70	F	Asymptomatic	L	Left nephrectomy	6-cm Well demarcated mass	Hilum	Schwannoma	No	Alive (18-month)
Pantuck ¹⁴	1996	50	F	Palpable mass	R	Right nephrectomy	28-cm Mass	Perirenal	Malignant schwannoma	Yes	Died after 42 months
Alvarado-Cabrero ¹⁵	2000	18	F	Flank pain	R	Right nephrectomy	6.2-cm Mass	Intraparenchymal	Schwannoma	No	Alive (42-month)
Alvarado-Cabrero ¹⁵	2000	84	M	Incidental finding	R	Right nephrectomy	4-cm Mass	Intraparenchymal	Cellular schwannoma	No	Alive (54-month)
Alvarado-Cabrero ¹⁵	2000	40	F	Flank pain, fever, abdominal mass, anemia	L	Left Nephrectomy	12.5-cm Mass	Intraparenchymal	Cellular schwannoma	No	Alive (12-month)
Alvarado-Cabrero ¹⁵	2000	45	M	Flank and abdominal pain	L	Left Nephrectomy	16-cm Mass	Intraparenchymal	Ancient schwannoma	No	Alive (60-month)

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