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## CASE REPORT

# Spindle cell lipoma of the cheek: A case report and review of literature

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### KEYWORDS

Spindle cell lipoma;  
Cheek;  
Woman

**Summary** Spindle cell lipoma is a benign tumour composed of mature fat cells, spindle cells, and a myxoid matrix separated by thick bands of birefringent collagen. Oral spindle cell lipoma is a very rare lesion. We report a case of spindle cell lipoma of the cheek. A 42-year-old woman was referred to our department because of a painless swelling on the left cheek. Clinical examination revealed a mobile, well-demarcated mass of the cheek. The tumour was removed surgically under general anaesthesia. A histopathological specimen revealed a spindle cell lipoma. Following surgery, no evidence of recurrence has been observed.

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## Introduction

Lipomatous tumours are the most common soft tissue tumours.<sup>1</sup> Spindle cell lipoma (SCL) is a distinct histological variant of lipoma derived from prelipoblastic mesenchymal cells.<sup>1</sup> SCL is a rare benign neoplasm, and oral SCL is extremely rare. Piattelli et al.<sup>1</sup> reported that only 14 cases of intraoral spindle cell lipoma had been reported in the literature. Clinically, SCL appears almost always as a solitary, subcutaneous, circumscribed lesion.

Five cases of intraoral SCL have been reported in the Japanese literature.<sup>2–6</sup> We report a patient with spindle cell lipoma in the buccal region, and conducted a literature review.

## Case presentation

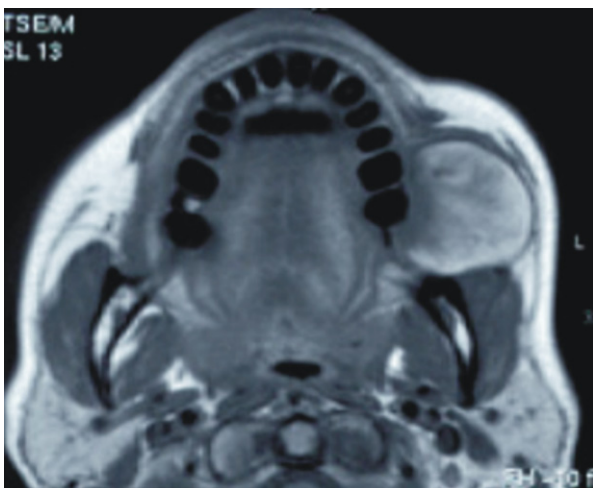
A 42-year-old woman was referred to the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biochemical Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan, in February 2005 because of a swelling of the left buccal region. The patient noticed that the swelling had been slowly increasing in size during the past two years. The patient's medical and family histories were unremarkable.

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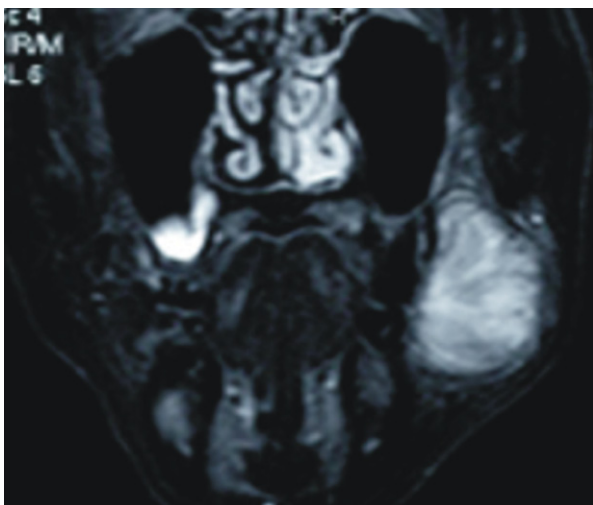


**Figure 1** Intraoral examination showed a soft swelling at the left buccal mucosa.



**Figure 2** Axial MRI of the buccal lesion.

Clinical examination revealed an elastic firm mass measuring  $50 \times 45 \times 35$  mm in the left buccal mucosa (Fig. 1). The surface of the swelling was smooth normal oral mucosa, and the margin was clear. Erosion was noted at the lower first molar tooth. MRI showed a well-circumscribed round



**Figure 3** Coronal MRI of the buccal lesion.



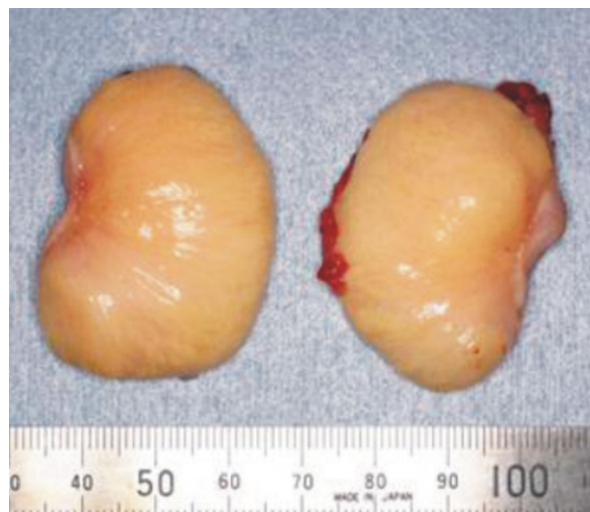
**Figure 4** The tumour was surrounded by normal oral mucosa and it was elastic and soft.

mass with a low intensity signal on T1 (Figs. 2 and 3). The clinical diagnosis was lipoma or benign tumour of the cheek.

The tumour was excised en block with oral mucosa under general anaesthesia. The surgical margin was about 5 mm around the tumour. The lesion was superficially located, not infiltrating, uniformly hard, and presented a yellowish colour. Clinically, the excised tumour was  $50 \times 40 \times 20$  mm and had an elastic, soft covering with a connective tissue-like capsule (Figs. 4 and 5). No recurrence has been detected since surgery.

### Histopathological findings

The submucous tumour was clearly demarcated from the surrounding connective and muscle tissues, and showed an



**Figure 5** The surface of the divided mass was solid and elastic soft.

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