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Multiple giant intra abdominal lipomas: A rare presentation



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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Solitary or multiple lipomas, composed of mature fat, represents by far the most common benign mesenchymal neoplasm occurring throughout the whole body, but they rarely originate in the intestinal mesentery.

PRESENTATION OF CASE: A 60-year-old male presented with left sided abdominal distension and pain since 4 months, ultrasonography and computerized tomography abdomen was suggestive of multiple well-defined fat density lesions in the lower abdomen and pelvis. USG guided fine needle aspiration cytology was conclusive of a spindle cell lesion. Exploratory laparotomy was performed and multiple major fat tissue swellings were excised. Histopathology confirmed it to be spindle cell type of lipoma.

DISCUSSION: Because of the silent nature the exact prevalence of lipomas is unknown. It can arise in any location in which fat is normally present, reported intra abdominal lipomas have been very rare. Clinical manifestations depend on the size and location of the growth. In most patients, symptoms are few or absent. USG and CT scan abdomen are used for the diagnosis. Complete surgical excision being the only treatment.

CONCLUSION: Intra abdominal lipoma is a very rare entity, and many cases might be ignored due to their silent nature. They might or might not present with any symptoms. Complete surgical excision being the only treatment, with a very good prognosis.

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1. Introduction

Lipoma is a benign soft tissue tumor, composed of mature fat, represents by far the most common mesenchymal neoplasm occurring throughout the whole body, but they rarely originate in the intestinal mesentery.^{6,8} A search of the English literature has revealed less than 30 documented cases. In the literature review, intra abdominal lipomas do not cause any intestinal symptoms in most cases, as it usually allow the passage of intestinal contents,^{1,5} and those causing abdominal pain make up only a small percentage.^{2,6} Because of its rarity we are presenting this case of multiple intra abdominal lipoma.

2. Presentation of case

A 60-year-old male presented with left sided abdominal distension and pain since 4 months. Patient was vitally stable. On examination, left sided distension of abdomen was present, and a huge mass palpable in the left lumbar region, crossing the midline,

extending up to umbilicus region. Blood investigations were within normal limits. USG and CT abdomen revealed a large well-defined fat density lesion in lower abdomen and pelvis, posteriorly encasing the adjacent aorta and inferior vena cava, displacing the small bowel loops to the right side with multiple fat density lesions with soft tissue component and septae within, in the left hypochondriac, supra-umbilical and left lumbar regions. USG Guided FNAC was suggestive of a spindle cell lesion. In view of the CT findings (Fig. 1) exploratory laparotomy was performed. Multiple major fat tissue swellings (Fig. 2) were excised. Largest measuring 26 cm × 21 cm × 10 cm and weighing 3.5 kg and smallest measuring 7 cm × 6 cm × 4 cm and weighing 100 g. The masses totally weighed 9.8 kg. Cut section revealed greasy gray yellow–gray white surface with areas of cystic degeneration, along with a firm area at the center of tumor (Fig. 3). Histopathology (Figs. 4 and 5) was conclusive of spindle cell type of lipoma. Post-operative period was uneventful.

3. Discussion

The exact prevalence of lipomas is unknown, however, it is likely far higher than reported, because most cases with lipomas may be ignored due to their silent nature. It can arise in any location in which fat is normally present, reported intra abdominal

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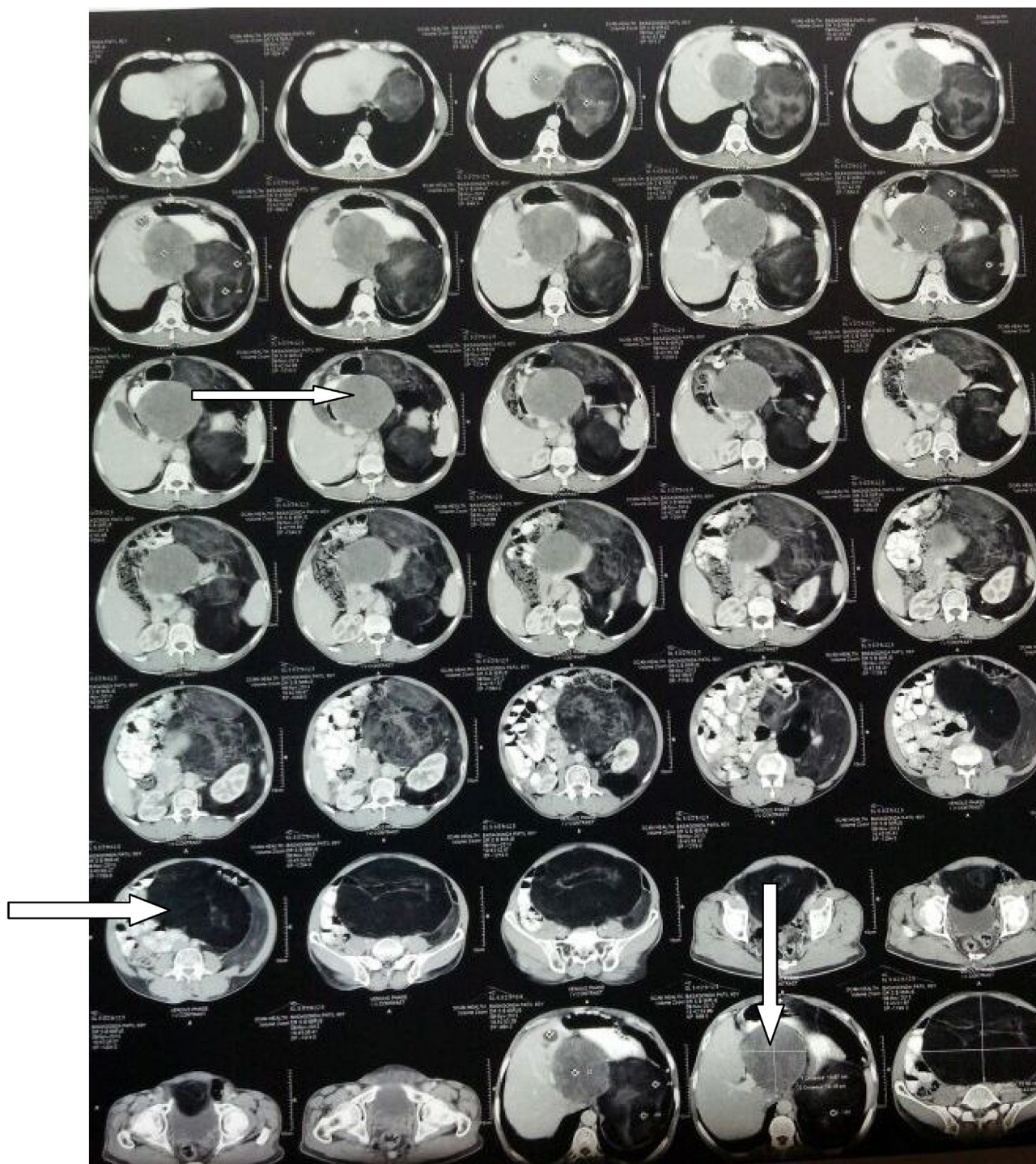


Fig. 1. Photograph showing CT abdomen pelvis with findings of multiple well-defined fat density lesions with soft tissue component.

lipomas have been very rare.^{1–9} A search of the English literature has revealed less than 30 documented cases.

Very little is known about the pathogenesis of lipomas. An increased incidence is associated with obesity, diabetes mellitus, elevation of serum cholesterol, radiation, familial tendency, chromosomal abnormalities.^{4,10,11} Malignant change of lipoma to liposarcoma is virtually unknown. These benign lesions may grow to large proportions and numbers but have no propensity to mutate.^{12,13}

Deep lipomas are usually diagnosed only when the tumor grows very big or becomes symptomatic of its anatomical localization.⁴

Clinical manifestations depend on the size and location of the growth. In most patients, symptoms are few or absent. It may cause abdominal pain by complete intestinal obstruction as a result of torsion or volvulus^{3,7–9} or partial intestinal obstruction associated with compression of the intestine.

Ultrasonography will depict these intra abdominal lipomas as well-defined homogeneous, echogenic masses. Computed tomography will depict these as masses with low attenuation similar to adipose tissue.⁴

In most cases, complete surgical excision is easily performed because the capsule that surrounds the tumor presents a clear

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