

Neurological image

Glomus tumor of forearm : a rare cause of neuralgia

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Glomus tumor is a benign tumor developing from the arteriovenous anastomosis (Ramsis *et al.*, 1999). Glomus tumors are rare benign tumors distinguished clinically by their small size and causing extreme pain (Apfelberg *et al.*, 1968). Glomus tumors are usually found beneath the fingernails, but occur sometimes in many other locations. Glomus tumors in the wrist area and extremities are rare (Tomak *et al.*, 2003). A 21-year-old male patient presented to the outpatients' clinic of the Neurology department with a 3 years history of severe pain, hypersensitivity symptoms by touching on his left arm and hypoesthesia on the 4th and 5th fingers. Neurological examination showed swelling on distal part of left forearm, hypothenar atrophy (Fig. 1), 3/5 muscle strength of finger abduction and adduction, 4/5 muscle strength of finger flexion. There were severe pain and allodynia on the 1/3 distal part of ulnar nerve dermatome of the left forearm, hypoesthesia on the 4th and 5th fingers, and coldness and sweating on the left hand. Electromyography studies only showed slowing of nerve conduction velocity on the left ulnar sensory nerve. After detection of a solid nodule measuring 20 × 10 × 6 mm on ultra-



FIG. 1. — A neurological examination showed hypothenar atrophy on the left hand.



FIG. 2. — Ultrasonographic (USG) examination showed localized hypoechoic solid lesion (Its size was about 10 × 20 × 6 mm).

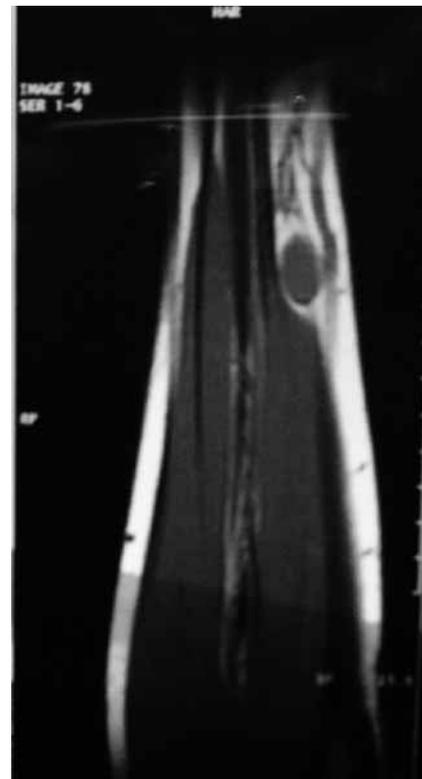


FIG. 3. — Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the forearm showing an isointense oval lesion enhancing with injection of gadolinium on the T1-weighted image.

sonographic examination (Fig. 2), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a nodular lesion on the 1/3 distal part of ulna that is isointense on the T1-weighted image, hyperintense on the TIRM-weighted image, and homogenous contrast enhancement was seen (Fig. 3). The lesion was excised totally and histological examination revealed a glomus tumor. After complete surgical excision the symptoms disappeared quickly.

References

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