

Lipoblastoma of Tongue in a 6 Year Old Female Child: An Unusual Presentation

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Lipoblastomas are rare tumor of white fat, account for 30% of all adipocytic tumors of early infancy and childhood [1]. Lipoblastomas occur exclusively in children with the mean age of onset is 1 year [1-3]. The site of origin is most often in the limbs, followed by the trunk, the retroperitoneum, and the head and neck. Although an endosteal lipoblastoma of mandible has been reported in the literature, it has never been reported in intra-oral soft tissue [2]. A 6 year old girl presented to a private dental clinic for the evaluation of an asymptomatic swelling of tongue from 2 months. Family history and past medical history of the patient was not relevant to the present swelling. Intra - oral examination revealed a small, well circumscribed, painless, solitary swelling of the ventral surface of the tongue measuring about 2 × 2 cm. The color of the lesion was pink without showing any signs of ulceration and discharge (Figure 1a). On palpation the swelling was soft and fluctuant. An excisional biopsy was done under local anesthesia The soft tissue mass was preserved in 10% formalin and sent to the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, NIMS Dental College, Jaipur (India) for histopathological evaluation. The follow up period of 1 year was uneventful without any recurrence. Histopathological examination of hematoxylin and eosin stained soft tissue section revealed a tumor mass comprised of lobules of fat cells separated by fibrous tissue septa The connective tissue stroma showed two different areas one area was immature, loose fibrillar and myxoid showed numerous spindle shaped cells and adipocytes (Figure 1b). Mature area showed numerous mature multivacuolated adipocytes in a myxoid stroma (Figure 1c) with focal collection of lipoblasts (Figure 1d). Based on histopathological features a final diagnosis of lipoblastoma was given.



Figure 1a: Soft fluctuant lesion of ventral tongue.

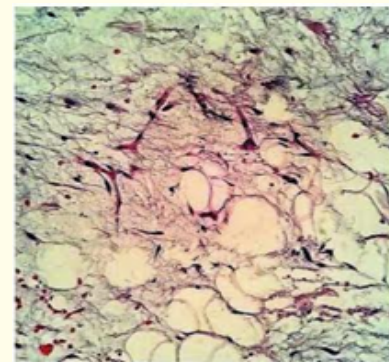


Figure 1b: loose myxoid stroma with numerous spindled cells and mature adipocytes. (Hematoxylin and Eosin stain X20).

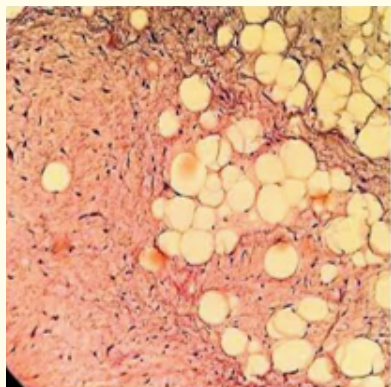


Figure 1c: Admix of mature adipocytes and focal lipoblasts in a myxoid stroma. (Hematoxylin and Eosin stain X20).

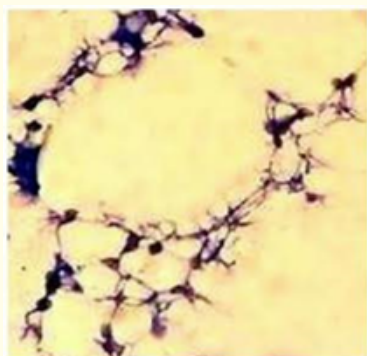


Figure 1d: Focal area of lipoblasts. (Hematoxylin and Eosin stain X40).

Lipoblastoma is a rare mesenchymal tumor of early childhood and infancy. 90% of lipoblastomas occur in infants under 3 years of age, and up to 40% are younger than 1 year [1]. The case presented here was contrary and was found in a female child of 6 years. 11% cases of lipoblastomas occur in head and neck region. No case of lipoblastoma affecting oral cavity has been reported in the literature [3]. Histopathologically lipoblastomas may imitate the features of myxoid liposarcoma. Although the latter is unencapsulated and comprised of mature adipocytes show pleomorphism and cellular atypia with comparatively more vascular stroma. The treatment of choice is surgical removal and they do not recur [4]. The case pre-

sented here is unusual owing to the age of the patient and this is the first presentation of lipoblastoma in oral cavity; hence the aim of this paper is to offer some more insight to the current literature pertaining to this rare tumor.

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