

Multiple Benign Symmetric Lipomatosis - A Differential Diagnosis of Obesity

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Abstract

Benign symmetrical lipomatosis (BSL), or Madelung's disease, is a rare disease characterized by the progressive growth of diffuse, painless, non-enveloped symmetric lipomas. The etiology of this disease remains unknown, although it was associated in the medical literature with alcohol and nicotine abuse, metabolic disorders and a number of malignancies. It is assumed that there is a genetic predisposition for this affliction. The management in such cases is surgical removal of the lipomas, most times in several sessions, but this is often followed by relapse. However, surgical removal of the lipomas can provide satisfactory patient functionality and cosmetic results. The differential diagnosis is made with morbid obesity, Cushing syndrome, angioliomatosis, encapsulated lipomas, neurofibromatosis, myxoid liposarcoma, lymphoma, salivary gland disease, Frölich and lipomatosis syndrome in patients infected with HIV. The current paper reports the case of a 55 year-old man, who presented with several large lipomatous masses, arranged symmetrically on the front and back of the trunk, and several smaller lipomas in the upper and lower limbs. Treatment consisted of resection of these lipomas in several sessions, without recurrence at one year after the last operation.

Key words: benign symmetric lipomatosis, Launois-Bensaude's syndrome, surgical treatment, alcoholism

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