LIPOMA OF HEART - A RARE NEOPLASM SEEN ON AUTOPSY

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ABSTRACT
The most frequent primary tumour of the heart is myxoma, followed by lipoma, rhabdomyoma, haemangioma and lymphangioma. Primary tumors of the heart constitute 0.4% of autopsy specimens. We report a case of 40 years male who died suddenly and his heart was received in Pathology Department for examination. In the left ventricular wall, a well circumscribed yellowish mass was seen which on microscopy proved to be a lipoma.

Keywords: Lipoma, heart.

INTRODUCTION
Primary tumours of the heart are quite rare and constitute 0.4% of autopsy specimens. Lipomas account for approximately 10% of all neoplasms of the heart and represent 14% of the benign cardiac tumours. Symptoms may be more often the presenting feature in large lipomas but more often the patients are asymptomatic. The cardiac lipomas can arise subendocardially, subepicardially or from the myocardium. This case is being presented for its rarity.

Case report
An autopsy specimen of heart of 40 years old male was received in the Department of Pathology, Govt. Medical College, Patiala to know the cause of sudden death. The deceased had complained of severe chest pain before death.

Pathological findings
Gross examination - Specimen of heart weighing 380 gms was received which was without auricles and large blood vessels. On dissection, there was seen a well-defined yellowish white area in the wall of left ventricle, near the atrio-ventricular junction, it was 4 cms in diameter (Fig. 1).

Microscopic examination - revealed mature adipose tissue with no cellular atypia. Fine fibrous trabeculae traversing this adipose tissue were also seen. The surrounding muscle fibres were showing degenerative changes because of the compression by the tumour (Fig. 2).

DISCUSSION
Primary tumors of the heart are quite rare. The most frequent primary tumour of the heart is myxoma, followed by lipoma, rhabdomyoma,
haemangioma and lymphangioma.

Lipomas can occur in subendocardium, subepicardium or within the myocardium. In the case, we are reporting, lipoma was involving the left ventricular myocardium. Srinivas et al (Pubmed) also reported a lipoma of left ventricle in a 36 years old female.

Lipomas of heart are usually asymptomatic or can create ball valve obstruction or produce arrhythmiasS. They are most often located in the left ventricle, right atrium or atrial septum (Robbin's Pathology 2000). In present case it was located in the left ventricular wall.

Recently the ready availability of echocardiography, CT and MRI have allowed easier diagnosis. Therefore, more cases have been reported in literature now a days. To date, 70 cases of lipomas have been described in literature (Bonamini et al 2000).

It can be concluded that large lipoma involving left ventricular wall with consequent disruption of myocardial fibers resulting sudden death of the patient.

References
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