CASE REPORT

Case Report: An extremely rare occurrence of recurrent inguinal low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma involving the scrotum [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]

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Abstract
Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma (LGFM) is a rare sarcoma subtype. The most common tumor locations are the deep soft tissue of extremities or trunks. We report a rare case of recurrent LGFM in the inguinal region involving the scrotum and both testicles. A 38-year-old male patient reported a history of multiple nodular lesions in the left inguinal region accompanied by local inflammation. The patient was submitted for local resection of the lesion at our institution, with histopathological diagnosis of LGFM. He missed his follow-up, returning with a large bulge in the left inguinal region involving the scrotum with signs of tissue necrosis and local purulent discharge. Surgical exploration was performed and the patient underwent tumor resection in the left inguinal region and the entire scrotum, with bilateral orchiectomy, with the margins enlarged to the right inguinal region and proximal surface of the penis. Local reconstruction was performed with a left fascia lata tensor muscle flap and ipsilateral thigh coverage using partial skin graft. On microscopic examination, the tumor showed spindle cells arranged in bundles, with abundant collagen and myxoid stroma with interspersed prominent vessels. The immunohistochemical study carried out showed immunoreactivity with Ki67 (<5%), immunonegativity with desmin and S100, confirming the diagnosis of LGFM. Postoperative recovery was good and no recurrence was seen after two years. The patient is in good health, realizing multidisciplinary outpatient follow-up and performing continuous testosterone replacement. Surgical resection with negative margins for localized disease remains the standard treatment for LGFM.

Keywords
Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma, sarcoma, scrotum sarcoma
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Introduction
Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma (LGFMS) is a rare sarcoma subtype, first described by Evans in 1987. The most common tumor locations are the deep soft tissue of extremities or trunks. The etiology is still unknown and the incidence is 0.18 per million, representing 0.6% of all soft tissue sarcomas.

Microscopy reveals bland spindle cell tumors with angulated nuclei, scant cytoplasm arranged in a whorled pattern with cells that are frequently immunoreactive to mucin. Despite its deceptively indolent clinical behavior and benign histological appearance, LGFMS has a high tendency for local recurrence and late distant metastasis. The current treatment includes surgical excision with clear margins for localized disease with or without radiotherapy, while conventional systemic therapy has limited efficacy in advanced LGFMS.

Here, we report a rare case of recurrent LGFMS in the inguinal region involving the scrotum and both testicles. To the best of our knowledge, there is no case described with this rare presentation.

Case presentation
Patient information and medical history
A 38-year-old male patient reported a history of multiple nodular lesions in the left inguinal region accompanied by a local inflammatory process since the age of 13. Since then, he had undergone multiple surgical procedures performed by different health services, with clinical and histopathological diagnosis of complicated hidradenitis. The patient was submitted to local resection of the lesion at our institution, with histopathological diagnosis of LGFMS. He missed his follow-up in 2009, only returning in 2017 with a large bulge in the left inguinal region involving the scrotum with signs of tissue necrosis and local purulent discharge.

Diagnosis and intervention
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a mass of lobulated contours and partially defined limits, located in the left scrotum and extending to the perineal region and the medial aspect of the thigh, with invasion of the ipsilateral adductor muscles, not separable from the left testicle.

Given this case of a large recurrent LGFMS, the patient was scheduled for surgical intervention. Under general anesthesia, the patient was placed in supine position and the intraoperative findings were compatible with the MRI results, additionally revealing the involvement of the right testicle. The patient underwent tumor resection in the left inguinal region and the entire scrotum, with bilateral orchiectomy, with the margins enlarged to the right inguinal region and proximal surface of the penis, this stage of the surgery being performed by the urology team. Local reconstruction was performed by the plastic surgery team, with a left fascia lata tensor muscle flap and ipsilateral thigh coverage using partial skin graft.

On microscopic examination, the tumor showed an admixture of hypocellular zone and more cellular, spindle cell nodule. Arcades of small vessels with perivascular sclerosis were seen.

Discussion
LGFMS is a recently recognized soft tissue tumor that was first reported in 1987 by Evans as a metastasizing tumor with a deceptively benign histological appearance, affecting predominantly adults during the fourth decade of life. Patients are often misdiagnosed with fibromatosis, neurofibroma or other benign conditions instead of LGFMS. In our case, the patient underwent multiple procedures without success due to misdiagnosis of hidradenitis. LGFMS generally occurs in the lower proximal extremities and trunk, but is also infrequently described as arising from the inguinal region and the chest wall. Despite its relatively low-grade histology, local postsurgical recurrence and metastases to lungs and bone are frequently seen and can appear several years after primary surgery. We present a case in which a primary
tumor of the inguinal region relapsed after multiple surgical treatments and aggressively invaded adjacent structures, including both testicles.

Radiological examination has an important role in the diagnosis of LGFMS. However, it is difficult to distinguish LGFMS from other mesenchymal tumors due to the rarity. CT scan and MRI can identify the lesions and help evaluate relationships with adjacent structures. In imageological examination, LGFMS is generally seen as a solitary and well circumscribed lesion, although it can be present as multiple infiltrating masses upon recurrence\(^9\). MRI techniques can be more helpful than CT to detect the fibrous and myxoid components of the tumor according to the T1/T2 signal intensity\(^10\). In our case, MRI was essential for surgical programming, presenting findings similar to those during surgery.

The definite diagnosis depends on histopathological examination. Histologically, the tumor has a deceptively benign appearance, making diagnosis a challenge, although immunohistochemistry can exclude entities in differential diagnosis. Therefore, it is
Surgical resection with negative margins for localized disease remains the standard treatment for LGFMS. However, treatments for advanced disease are limited. Radiotherapy has questionable efficacy, being reserved for cases of positive margins, recurrence or metastasis. Chemotherapy is usually reserved for patients with metastatic disease. However, there are no data to support the use of any systemic or locoregional treatments. Chamberlain et al. recently described their experience with non-surgical therapies to treat LGFMS. According to the authors, systemic therapy has limited efficacy in advanced LGFMS. Despite tumor recurrence in our case, the patient did not present metastasis after aggressive surgical treatment and it was not necessary to perform adjuvant treatment.

To the best of our knowledge, there is no case described with recurrent LGFMS in the inguinal region involving the scrotum and both testicles. The patient was properly treated through tumor resection and local reconstruction. However, this study has limitations due to the short follow-up period.

**Conclusion**

LGFMS is a rare sarcoma subtype but one which should be considered in nodular lesions in the inguinal region. Histologically, the tumor has a deceptively benign appearance, making diagnosis a challenge. If missed, adjacent structures such as the scrotum can be aggressively involved. Surgical resection with negative margins for localized disease remains the standard treatment.

**Data availability**

All data underlying the results are available as part of the article and no additional source data are required.

**Consent**

Written informed consent for publication of their clinical details and clinical images was obtained from the patient.

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**References**


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