

## Schwannomas - Benign Tumors

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### **ABSTRACT**

Schwannomas are rare benign tumour occurring in breast. We report an intramammary schwannoma in axillary tail of breast of a 40-year-old woman which was mimicking a phyllodes tumour and tru-cut biopsy was inconclusive.

### **KEYWORDS**

Schwannoma; Axillary tail; Phyllodes tumour

### **1. CLINICAL IMAGE**

Schwannomas are benign tumors arising from the peripheral nerve sheath, commonly occurring in the head, neck, and extensor surfaces of the extremities [1,2]. It may be associated with neurofibromatosis type II. We describe a 40-year-old woman with a 3 months history of a left-sided palpable, painless axillary mass. On clinical examination it was well defined approx 2 cm mass in the axillary tail. She underwent mammogram which demonstrated focal rounded asymmetry in left breast superolateral quadrant with well defined margins on tomosynthesis (Figure 1). Ultrasound revealed predominantly cystic mass with solid areas with septae in periphery 24 mm × 24 mm × 20 mm in size. It was reported as BIRADS 4A. Tru cut biopsy was inconclusive. Excision biopsy was done and marking clips were placed. Histology revealed an intramammary

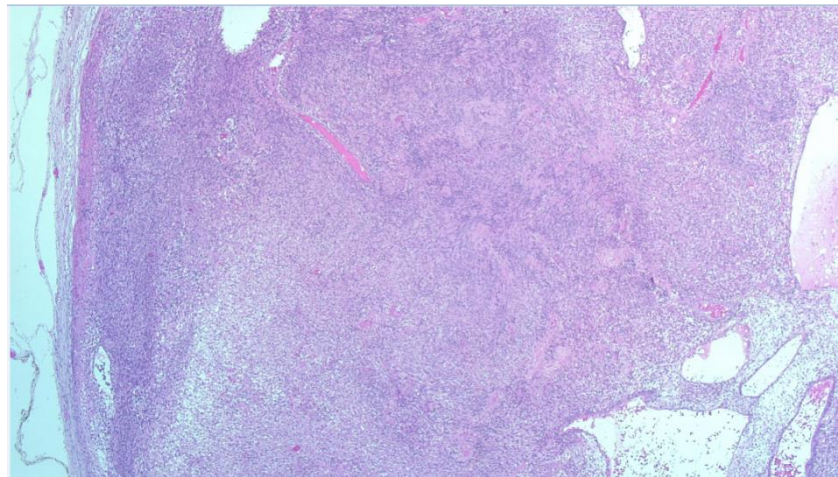
schwannoma. It shows an encapsulated spindle cell tumor containing dilated vessels (Figure 2). The tumor cells are arranged in fascicles and show nuclear palisading forming Verocay bodies. They are S100-positive on immunohistochemistry. This image highlights the importance of keeping breast schwannoma in differential diagnosis of breast lump. It is difficult to diagnose a schwannoma on radiological features alone. Correlation of radiology, clinical findings and pathology is a must before arriving to a definitive management plan. Breast schwannoma is rare and axillary tail schwannoma is even more rarer. They are benign in nature but malignant transformation is also reported. They are reported on mammogram as BIRADS 4A as they have very low malignant potential.

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**Figure 1:** Mammogram which demonstrated focal rounded asymmetry in left breast superolateral quadrant with well defined margins on tommosynthesis.



**Figure 2:** Encapsulated spindle cell tumor containing dilated vessels.

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