



Lipoma on the Antitragus of the Ear

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Keywords

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Lipomas are the most common soft-tissue neoplasm [1,2]. Although they affect individuals of a wide age range, they occur predominantly in adults between the ages of 40 and 60 years [2]. They most commonly present as painless, slowly enlarging subcutaneous mass on the trunk, neck, or extremities. Involvement of the head, hands, and feet is uncommon [2]. To our knowledge, lipoma on the cartilaginous portion of the ear (auricular helix) has been reported only three cases so far [1,3,4]. Herein, we report a rare case of lipoma on the antitragus of the ear.

A 31 year-old Korean woman presented with an asymptomatic, solitary, 0.5 cm-sized, skin-colored, firm, immovable mass on the antitragus of the left ear for one year (Figure 1A). She denied of previous trauma or infection. We initially suspected the mass as a dermatofibroma or nevus, because of its clinical manifestation. We performed a skin biopsy for confirmative diagnosis.

Histopathology revealed an unencapsulated intra dermallipoma composed of lobules of mature adipocytes separated by delicate fibrovascular septa (Figure 1B). A final diagnosis of dermal lipoma was made. We recommend complete excision, but the patient was lost to follow-up.

Lipomas are benign tumors made up of mature fat cells [5]. They can be solitary or multiple, small or big, symptomatic or asymptomatic. Lipomas are mostly asymptomatic but rarely accompany pain by pressing the adjacent structures. Apart from the fat cells, they may also contain fibrous tissue, nerves or vascular tissue. Such cases are named accordingly as fibrolipoma, neurolipoma, angioliipoma [5]. Based on their location, they are also classified as dermal, subcutaneous, submucous or intramuscular lipomas [5,2].

Approximately 15% of all lipomas occur in the head and neck area with the posterior neck being the most common site [1]. They rarely involve the face, scalp, orbit, nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses, nasopharynx, cranium or ear [6]. When the lipomas are on the ear,

Table 1: Summary of report of lipoma on the cartilaginous part of the ear

Case	Patient information	Site	Treatment
Bassam et al. (2012)	82/M	Left ear helix	Simple excision
Mohammad et al. (2015)	42/M	Left ear concha	Simple excision
Ahmed et al. (2015)	17/F	Right ear helix	Simple excision
Current case	31/F	Left ear antitragus	-

most are located in internal auditory canals, where approximately 150 cases have been reported in the literature worldwide [7]. Lipomas rarely originate from the external ear where only a few cases have been reported from the ear lobule [5], and a only three cases from the cartilaginous part of ear [1,3,4] (Table 1). Bassem et al. reported a case of lipoma of the pinnal helix on the 82-year-old woman, which presented a single, 3x3x2 cm-sized, pedunculated mass [1]. Mohammad and Ahmed reported two cases of cartilaginous lipoma, one is conchal lipoma and the other is helical lipoma in 2015 [3,4]. To our knowledge, only these three cases of lipomas that have been on the cartilaginous part of the ear.

Lipomas from the cartilaginous part of the ear are very rare, but it is possible because of the presence of a thin adipose tissue layer on the auricle [1]. It should be considered as a differential diagnosis of benign tumors of auricle which usually includes papilloma, fibroma and chondromata and hemangioma [1].

Lipomas are removed mostly for cosmetic purposes. The treatment of choice is complete excision under local anesthesia [1,6,7,5,2]. Most lipomas are benign except liposarcoma. Local recurrence is rare except for the intramuscular forms. Metastasis does not occur [2].

So far, only three case of lipomas on the cartilaginous part of the ear has been reported, making this location very unusual for a lipoma [1,3,4].

We herein report a rare case of lipoma on the antitragus of the left ear.

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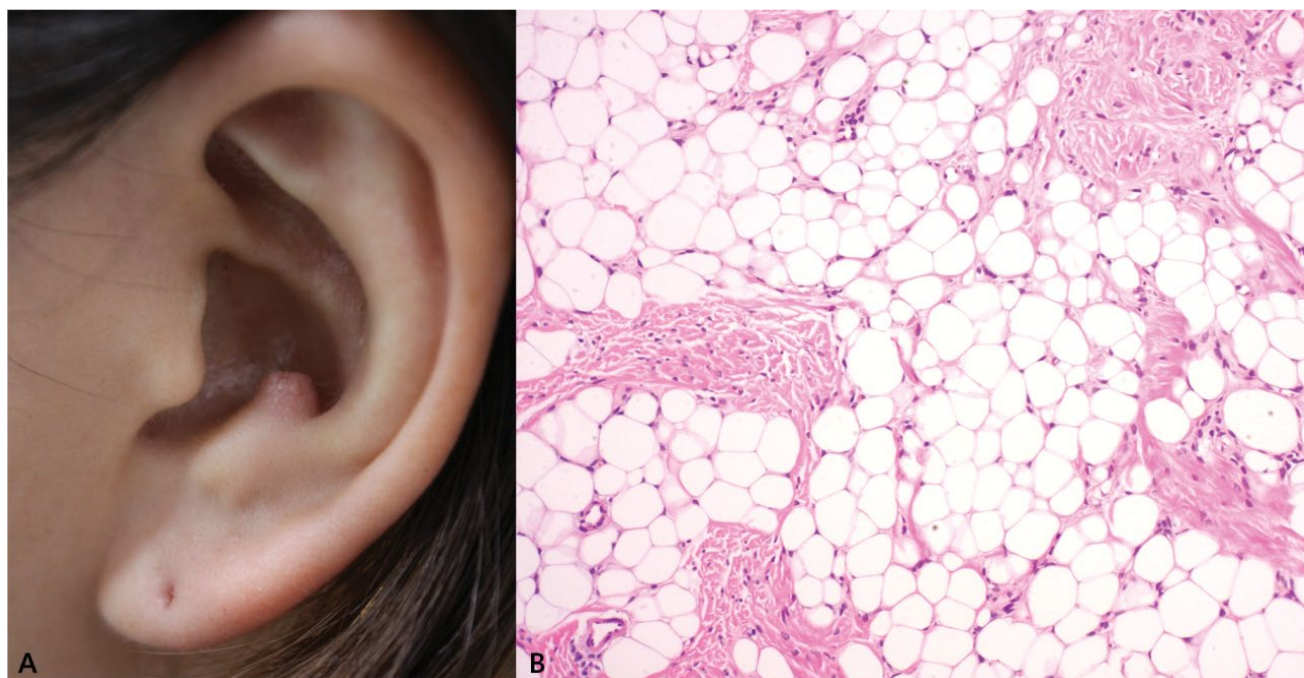


Figure 1(A): There is a 0.8 cm-sized, skin-colored, firm mass on the antitragus of left ear for 1 year.

Figure 1(B): Histopathologic findings revealed mass are composed of lobules of mature white adipose tissue divided by delicate and inconspicuous fibrous septa containing thin-walled capillary-sized vessels. (H & E, x100)

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