

“NOT AN ORDINARY DAY IN THE OFFICE””: WHEN A REFERRAL FOR A POSSIBLE HERNIA TURNS INTO A RARE CASE OF INGUINAL RHABDOMYOSARCOMA.

Polydorides Marianna, Ioannou Georgia, Pegios Athanasios, Georgakis Ioannis, Papouis Georgios, Tsikopoulos Georgios

Pediatric Surgery Clinic, GENERAL Hospital of Thessaloniki Ippokrateio

Introduction: Rhabdomyosarcomas (RMS) comprise 40% of all soft tissue tumours in children, making them the most common type of soft tissue cancer in the paediatric population. SSRMS is most common in the paratesticular area in young males, however there are two other subtypes, one found in infants located in the trunk and one found in older children seen in the head and neck area.

Aim: To present an unusual case of spindle cell/ sclerosing rhabdomyosarcoma (SSRMS) presenting in a female pre-adolescent patient as an inguinal mass.

Case report: A 12-year-old female patient referred to our emergency department for a possible inguinal hernia or inguinal lymphadenitis/abscess, complaining of a rapidly growing, painless mass located in the right inguinal area. She reported a recent history of constipation and absence of flatulence, with no history of trauma or fever. Upon clinical examination, the mass appeared painless on palpation and fixed to underlying tissues. Imaging findings revealed a large solid tumour in contact with the urinary bladder, but not infiltrating it, without distant signs of disease. Blood testing results were normal. The tumour was surgically removed en block and sent for histopathologic examination, which revealed a SSRMS.

Conclusion: This case constituted a diagnostic challenge as the medical history along with the signs and symptoms of the patient did not fit any of the most common possible pathologies, including local inflammatory processes, femoral/ inguinal hernias, or lymphoma. Hence, additional investigation was needed to lead us to the proper diagnosis and management.