

Vulval Leiomyoma: A Case Report

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Objective:

Leiomyomas are benign smooth muscle tumors most often arising from the uterine myometrium. Whilst leiomyomas make up 3.8% of all benign soft tissue tumors; vulval leiomyomas are considered incredibly rare, making up less than 0.1% of all vulval tumors. (1)

The diagnosis of leiomyomas remains complicated by a lack of distinctive features to separate it from other diagnoses

Case Report:

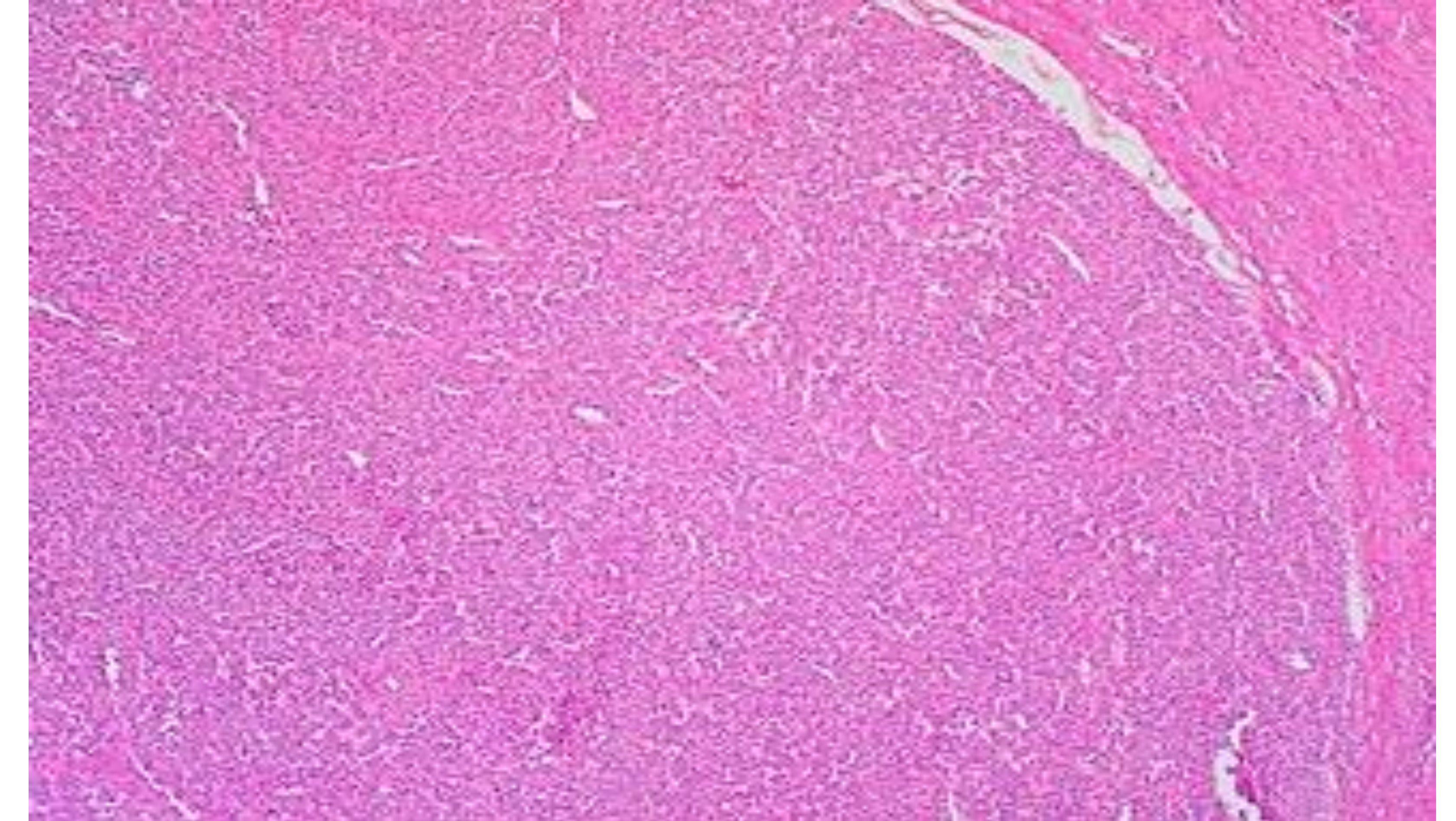
We present the case of a 52-year-old post-menopausal woman with a 7-year history of vulval swelling, gradually increasing in size with only mild discomfort. On examination, a right sided 3cm x 3cm firm, mobile mass was found. There was no associated induration or inflammation. The lesion was excised in entirety with the patient under general anesthesia and sent for histology. Microscopic assessment of the tissue showed a well circumscribed spindle cell lesion with hyaline changes but no atypical features thereby, confirming diagnosis of vulval leiomyoma.

Discussion:

Vulvar leiomyomas represent a rare pathology with only 300 cases reported in the literature since their first documentation in 1908. (2) Furthermore, they represent a series of diagnostic challenges made more challenging by their rarity.

Firstly, it is important to differentiate between vulval leiomyomas and other solid or cystic masses. This is further complicated by the fact that vulvar leiomyomas can present in an almost identical way to Bartholin Cysts - a solitary painless swelling that can cause discomfort depending on size.

The second diagnostic challenge is distinguishing if the lesion has malignant potential. Ultimately, histological examination of tissue is the only definitive way to tell the origin of the mass however, Tavassoli and Norris previously proposed three-point clinical criteria to try and identify malignant lesions such as leiomyosarcomas. (3)



Conclusion:

Vulval leiomyomas are an unusual cause of benign swelling and should always be considered as a differential diagnosis to vulval lesions. However, the diagnosis of this lesion prompts several diagnostic challenges due to the rarity of the pathology and its similarity to other pathologies

References

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