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표피낭종으로 오인된 이개전부의
염증성 근섬유아세포종: 드문 증례 보고

(Preauricular Inflammatory Myofibroblastic Tumor(IMT) Mimicking an Epidermal Cyst: A Rare Case Report)



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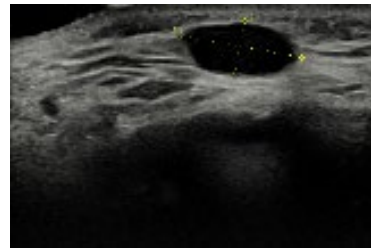
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Purpose: Inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor (IMT) is a rare intermediate-grade mesenchymal tumor that most commonly arises in the lung or abdominopelvic cavity. Occurrence in the facial soft tissue is extremely uncommon and may mimic benign lesions such as epidermal cysts. We report a rare case of preauricular IMT initially misdiagnosed as an epidermal cyst and discuss its clinicopathologic features and prognosis.

Methods: A 37-year-old man presented with a slowly growing subcutaneous mass in the right preauricular area. Preoperative computed tomography and ultrasonography performed at another hospital suggested an epidermal cyst. Surgical mass excision was performed for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, and the wound was closed with bilateral advancement flap.

Results: The excised mass measured 2.3 × 1.6 × 1.3 cm. Histopathologic examination confirmed inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor composed of spindle-shaped myofibroblastic cells with inflammatory cell infiltration. Immunohistochemistry demonstrated ALK positivity, supporting the diagnosis of IMT, while S-100 and desmin were negative. CD34 positivity was observed in vascular structures, consistent with reactive vascular proliferation. Follow-up CT performed 1 month after surgery demonstrated complete removal of the lesion, and no recurrence has been observed.

Conclusion: In this study, we introduce a rare case of inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor of the preauricular region, an uncommon location for this tumor. Although IMT generally shows low metastatic potential, local recurrence has been reported; therefore, long-term follow-up is recommended. After consultation with the oncology department, no additional treatment or imaging was required. The patient remains under surveillance without evidence of recurrence.



(A)



(B)

Fig. 1. Preoperative imaging of the right retroauricular mass. (A) Ultrasonography showing a well-defined subcutaneous lesion initially suspected as an epidermal cyst. (B) Computed tomography demonstrating a localized soft tissue mass in the right retroauricular region.



(A)



(B)

Fig. 2. (A) Preoperative. A 1.0cm-sized bulging nodule on right preauricular area. (B) Postoperative. a round shape defect was closed by bilateral advancement flap.