



# The Adipoceros Sophomore - Lipoblastoma

Anubha Bajaj\*

*Histopathologist, Consultant Histopathologist, New Delhi, India*

\*Corresponding author: Anubha Bajaj, Histopathologist, Consultant Histopathologist, New Delhi, India

Received: 📅 June 08, 2020

Published: 📅 June 24, 2020

## Preface

Lipoblastoma is an exceptional, benign, lobulated, mesenchymal neoplasm arising from embryonal adipose tissue cells or lipoblasts or immature adipocytes. In concurrence with diverse adipose tissue neoplasia such as lipoma, lipomatosis, angioliipoma, myoliipoma or lipoblastomatosis, lipoblastoma is categorized as a benign, mesenchymal, adipocytic neoplasm. Jaffe described lipoblastoma as an atypical lipoma with cellular constituents simulating embryonic fat or lipoblasts, in 1926. As lipoblastoma arises from embryonic adipose tissue, it is additionally nomenclated as “embryonic lipoma or foetal or embryonal lipoblastoma” [1]. Vellios denominated distinctive histological variants of lipoblastoma in 1958. A localized, superficial, singular, well circumscribed or encapsulated variant is designated as lipoblastoma whereas diffuse, multi-centric, non-encapsulated, infiltrative variant is nomenclated as lipoblastomatosis [2]. A predominantly lobulated, well circumscribed, encapsulated tumefaction simulating foetal adipose tissue, lipoblastoma is commonly situated within subcutaneous tissue. In contrast, lipoblastomatosis is a poorly defined, non-encapsulated, multi-centric, infiltrative, generally deep-seated neoplasm composed of an accumulation of foetal adipose tissue. Demography and characteristics of lipoblastomatosis is essentially similar to lipoblastoma [1,2].

## Disease Characteristics

Lipoblastoma and lipoblastomatosis are commonly discerned in infants or young children beneath < 3 years of age or infrequently amidst 14 years to 24 years. Tumour emergence is variable and ranges betwixt one month to 14 years with a median age of 2 years. The condition can occasionally be congenital. Lipoblastoma configures an estimated 15% of benign mesenchymal neoplasia arising in children beneath <3 years [3]. As an estimated 90% of tumours arise below < 3 years, lipoblastoma demonstrates a male predilection with a male to female proportion of 1.5 to 3:1. Malignant metamorphoses or distant metastasis of benign lipoblastoma is unknown [3,4]. Essentially comprised of immature,

persistent, embryonic adipose tissue which proliferates rapidly within the post natal period, lipoblastoma can configure an enlarged tumefaction wherein the variable tumour magnitude can extend up to 25 centimetres [3,4].

As a lobulated, mesenchymal neoplasm comprised of embryonal or foetal adipose tissue, lipoblastoma, characteristically demonstrates a benign biological behaviour, preliminary discernment, male predominance and brisk tumour evolution. Nevertheless, despite rapid progression and localized tumour infiltration of abutting anatomic structures, lipoblastoma delineates a superior prognosis [3,4]. Tumour reoccurrence is common in lipoblastomatosis and is observed in around 9% to 22% instances. Lipoblastomatosis is predominant within the head and neck region, tumours are minimally lobulated and infiltrate deep-seated skeletal muscle [3,4].

## Clinical Elucidation

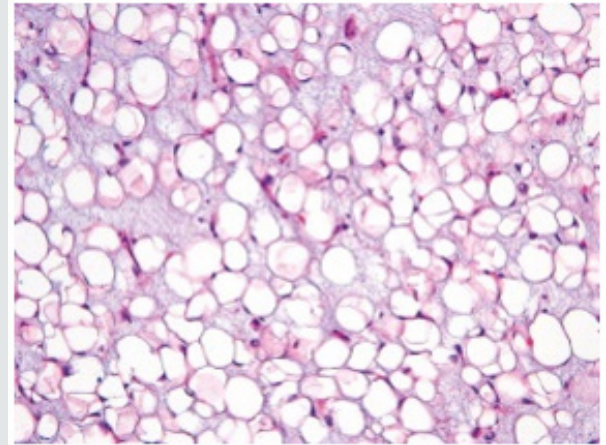
Lipoblastoma is commonly observed within sites of persistent immature adipose tissue. Lipoblastoma arises upon the trunk in nearly 10% to 60% subjects or extremities in roughly 40% to 45% individuals whereas tumefaction of the head and neck is exceptional. Occasionally, lipoblastoma is encountered within mediastinum, retroperitoneum, thigh, scrotum, anterior chest wall, renal pelvis, mesentery, omentum, inguinal, parotid or intra thoracic region or in abdominal locales as an intussusception, representing as an acute abdomen. Lipoblastoma confined to the retroperitoneum is discerned in below <5% instances [5,6].

Lipoblastoma arises as a gradually progressive, painless, superficial, subcutaneous, soft tissue nodule or a well circumscribed mass wherein an estimated 75% tumefaction appear upon the left side. Lipoblastoma can simulate foetal adipose tissue aggregates or a myxoid liposarcoma. Non-resected lipoblastoma generally matures into lipoma with prominent fibrous tissue septa [4]. Although accompanied by a benign biological behaviour, lipoblastoma can delineate symptoms arising due to compression of

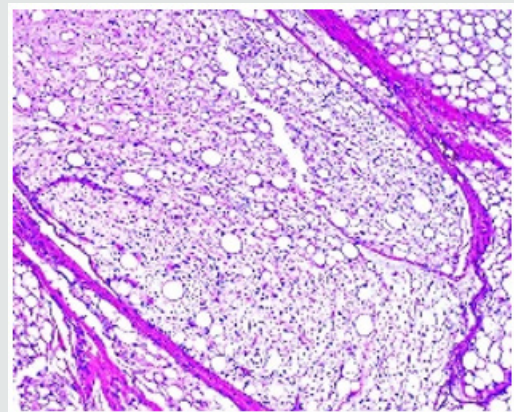
adjacent viscera. Typically, lipoblastoma is asymptomatic although nonspecific symptoms such as indigestion, vomiting, constipation, backache, haematuria or urinary symptoms are discerned with pertinently localized tumefaction. Lipoblastoma situated within the chest wall can exhibit cough, dyspnoea, airway obstruction with impaired airway clearance and predisposition to respiratory infections. Clinical symptoms contingent to vascular or spinal cord compression are extremely exceptional [5,6].

### Histological Elucidation

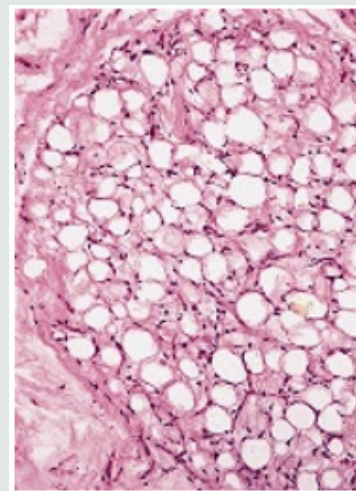
On macroscopic examination, miniature lesions of approximately 2 centimetre to 5 centimetre magnitude are discerned. Cut surface demonstrates adipose tissue aggregates with foci of gelatinous metamorphoses. Also, lipoblastoma or multi-centric lipoblastomatosis can manifest as a soft, lobulated tumefaction with a yellowish surface [6]. On fine needle aspiration cytology, a moderate to poorly cellular neoplasm is delineated. Aggregates of mature lipocytes, lipoblasts and spindle-shaped cells are intermixed with abundant, myxoid stroma and a smattering of stripped, elliptical nuclei [6,7]. Morphologically, the multinodular lipoblastoma demonstrates adipocytes in diverse stages of maturation with predominant myxoid foci and an absence of anaplasia. Microscopically, lipoblastoma with a lobulated configuration displays an admixture of mature and immature adipocytes, immature component essentially representing lipoblasts in diverse developmental stages. Contingent to age of incrimination, lipoblasts can be scarce and the neoplasm denominates lipoma-like architecture. Intervening tumour matrix can be myxoid with a plexiform, vascular pattern, akin to myxoid liposarcoma [6,7]. Distinct connective tissue septa divides the tumefaction into separate lobules. However, a lobular architecture is not preponderant in lipoblastomatosis. Occasionally, lipoblastoma or lipoblastomatosis may delineate foci of extramedullary haematopoiesis or cellular component recapitulating brown fat. Cellular maturation can occur, thus engendering a lipoma-like histological picture [6,7]. Histologically, hypo-cellular lobules of adipocytes with divergent differentiation are encountered. Pre-adipocytes, emerging as spindle-shaped or stellate cells, uni-vacuolated or multi-vacuolated lipoblasts and mature adipocytes accumulated within centroidal lobules are discerned. Polygonal nests and cords of multi-vacuolated adipose tissue tumour cells intermingled with numerous mature adipocytes, segregated by fragments of fibro-vascular stroma are exemplified. The pseudo-encapsulated, multi-lobulated, mesenchymal tumefaction is comprised of groups and clusters of peripherally disseminated immature lipoblasts demarcated with attenuated fibrous tissue septa [6,7]. Prominent fibrous tissue septa dividing tumour aggregates can be cellular. Tumour cell aggregates can be encompassed with an extracellular accumulation of mucinous matrix. Also, plexiform vascular configurations and abundant myxoid stroma circumscribes cellular lobules [7] (Figures 1-9).



**Figure 1:** Lipoblastoma depicting immature and mature adipocytes, lipoblasts, fibrous tissue fragments and red cell extravasation.

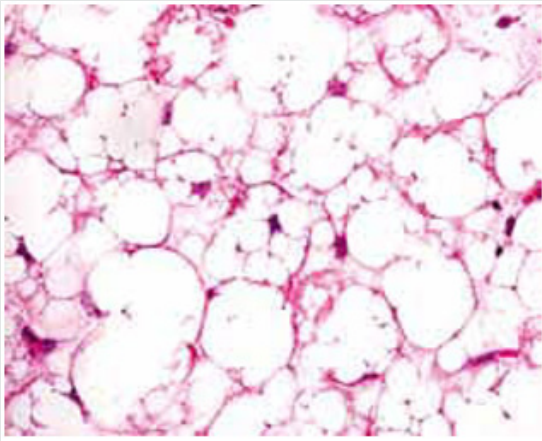


**Figure 2:** Lipoblastoma displaying nests of lipoblasts and immature adipocytes imbued with embryonic adipose tissue commingled with fibrous tissue septa and mature adipocytes.

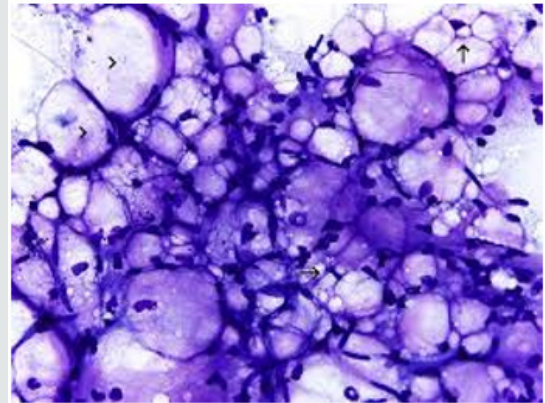


**Figure 3:** Lipoblastoma depicting aggregates of lipoblasts with peripheral encapsulation with fibrous tissue and intermingled mature adipocytes.

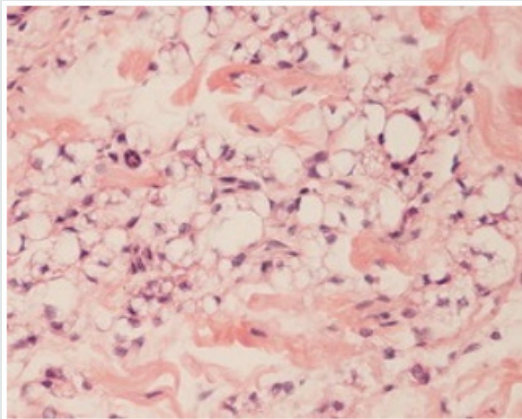




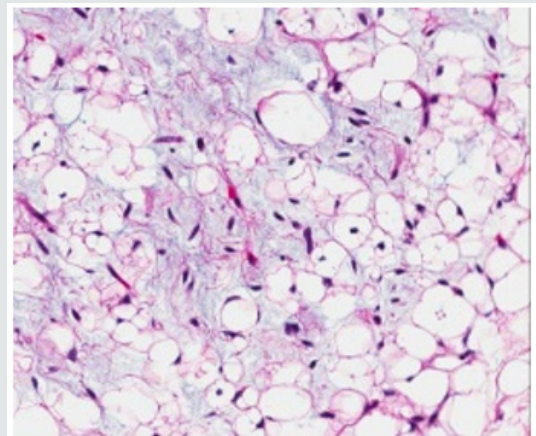
**Figure 4:** Lipoblastoma enunciating aggregates of vacuolated cells impacted with foetal adipose tissue and disseminated fibrous tissue septa.



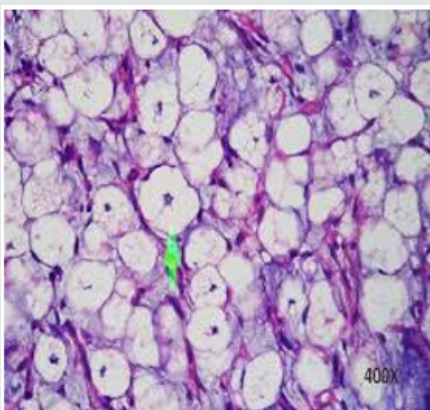
**Figure 7:** Lipoblastoma detected on fine needle aspiration cytology delineating lipid- rich, vacuolated cells with uniform, centric or eccentric nuclei and aggregates of fibro connective tissue.



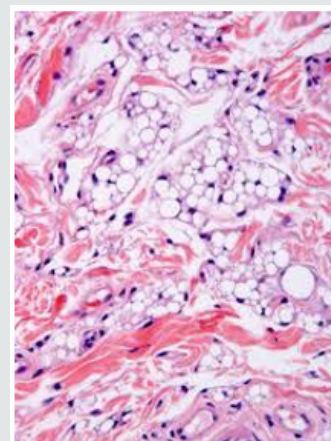
**Figure 5:** Lipoblastoma exemplifying clusters of immature adipocytes, lipoblasts and few mature adipocytes with several fibrous tissue septa, multi-vacuolated cells and red cell extravasation.



**Figure 8:** Lipoblastoma depicting aggregates of immature lipoblasts, few mature adipocytes, intermixed fibrous tissue septa and red cell extravasation.



**Figure 6:** Lipoblastoma exhibits accumulates of immature adipocytes, lipoblasts and mature adipocytes with centroidal, uniform nuclei, lipid-rich, vacuolated cytoplasm and fibrous tissue septa.



**Figure 9:** Lipoblastoma demonstrating aggregates of immature adipocytes with peripheral, compressed nuclei, intervening fibrous tissue septa and vascular congestion.

## Immune Histochemical Elucidation

Immune histochemical evaluation with CD34, S100 protein and desmin is beneficial. Primitive mesenchymal cells are immune reactive to desmin whereas adipocytes are immune reactive to CD34 and S100 protein and vascular endothelial cells are immune reactive to CD34. Lipoblastoma is immune reactive to Ki67, CD31 and alpha-smooth muscle actin ( $\alpha$ -SMA) [3,4]. Characteristically, majority of lipoblastomas demonstrate a genomic rearrangement of 8q11-13. Genetic mutation of chromosome 811q and around q13 region (8q11-13) with rearrangements within PLAG 1 gene is discerned in an estimated 70% subjects. Assessment of aforesaid genomic rearrangements is advantageous in detecting primary or reoccurring lipoblastomas [3,4]. Also, a polysomy for chromosome 8 is discerned along with genetic translocation of t(3;8) (p13;q21.1). On ultrastructural examination, tumour cells display an encompassing basal lamina, pinocytotic vesicles, Golgi membrane, spheroidal to elliptical mitochondria along with accumulation of intracytoplasmic glycogen and lipid. Tumour cells recapitulate a myxoid liposarcoma or cells of normal, developing adipose tissue [3,4].

## Differential Diagnosis

Lipoblastoma requires a distinction from neoplasia such as lipofibromatosis or infantile fibromatosis which denominates abundant fibrous tissue. Nevertheless, a singular entrapment of mature adipose tissue cells, an absence of myxoid stroma or a plexiform vascular plexus are features substantiating aforesaid neoplasia [7,8]. Lipoblastoma necessitates a segregation from adjunctive adipose tissue containing neoplasia such as lipoma, liposarcoma or teratoma. Occurrence of associated mesenchymal constituents and concomitant cystic change demarcates lipoblastoma from lipoma [7]. Teratoma often depicts discrete foci of calcification or ossification. Myxoid liposarcoma is infrequently delineated in children and lacks a distinct lobular pattern. The cellular neoplasm demonstrates giant cells with pleomorphic nuclei and diverse molecular anomalies [7,8]. Well differentiated liposarcoma is exceptionally discerned in children, is minimally cellular, displays mature adipose tissue aggregates, an absence of lipoblasts, spindle-shaped cells with enlarged, intensely stained nuclei and significant nuclear enlargement or pleomorphism. Immune reactivity to mouse double minute 2 homolog (MDM2) and cyclin dependent kinase 4 (CDK4) is discerned. Liposarcoma is infrequent prior to ten years of age. Besides, diagnostic imaging features are invalidated [7,8].

## Investigative Assay

A competently extracted surgical tissue specimen is mandated in adult subjects in order to diagnose lipoblastoma on account of nonspecific clinical features. Commonly, a lipoblastoma is appropriately discerned on an accurate histological examination. Conventional radiograph of lipoblastoma is nonspecific and

demonstrates a density mass comprised of soft tissue, pertinent to tumour magnitude, thickness and localization. Tumefaction is devoid of calcium deposition or erosion of abutting bone on account of rapid tumour progression [8,9]. Ultrasonography, computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are beneficial for assessing the extent, magnitude and location of neoplasm. Computerized tomographic angiography (CTA) can precisely evaluate critical vascular parameters.

Computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are excellent diagnostic modalities for determining the genesis, anatomical expanse and composition of a lipoblastoma. Imaging features are contingent to the composition, percentage of adipose tissue intermixed with myxoid stroma along with concordant, intrinsic fibrous tissue, vascular configurations and adjacent soft tissue nodules. Infants and young children exemplify an extensive myxoid component within a lipoblastoma whereas older children preponderantly display adipose tissue [8,9]. Computerized tomography (CT) permits a direct evaluation of adipose tissue component besides thick, fibrous tissue septa traversing the tumour, tumour nodularity and tumour enhancement on account of fibrous tissue. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a preferred diagnostic modality to evaluate the neoplasm and segregate lipoblastoma from accumulates of normal subcutaneous adipose tissue. Lipoblastoma is a lobulated neoplasm demonstrating enhancement of signal intensities [8,9].

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) defines intrinsic configuration of a lipoblastoma. Adipose tissue component delineates dense foci of signal intensities identical to subcutaneous adipose tissue within comprehensive image sequences. Myxoid, cystic articulations depict minimal signal intensity with T1 weighted imaging sequences and enhanced signal intensity with T2 weighted imaging sequences, thereby indicating an augmented water content of the neoplasm. Fibrous tissue septa exhibit intrinsic, mildly enhanced subdivisions. Occasionally, miniature, enhancing soft tissue nodules are enunciated. Lipoblastoma can be subjected to a fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) to confirm the diagnosis [8,9].

## Therapeutic Options

A comprehensive surgical extermination of the neoplasm with preservation of vital organs and a broad perimeter of normal, uninvolved, circumscribing soft tissue is advantageous and preferred. Additionally, dispensation of enlarged neurovascular bundles is recommended during treatment of enlarged tumours [10]. Irrespective of tumour localization, an optimal surgical eradication of the neoplasm is mandated. Comprehensive tumour resection is accompanied by an excellent prognosis as it appropriately circumvents a localized tumour reoccurrence. Distant metastasis and malignant metamorphoses of lipoblastoma is unknown [10]. Lipoblastoma demonstrates a superior prognosis with absent distant metastasis whereas potential tumour

reoccurrence varies from 9% to 26% on account of inadequate initial surgical procedure. Spontaneous tumour retrogression can occur. Lipoblastoma delineating an infiltrative tumour perimeter can display repetitive tumour reoccurrences necessitating repetitive surgical extermination [9,10]. Management of lipoblastomatosis necessitates a demanding therapeutic protocol on account of multi-centric neoplasia, irregular tumour margins and enhanced proportion of tumour reoccurrence. Enlarged abdominal tumefaction can be subjected to an initial laproscopic procedure in preoperatively benign tumours amenable to surgical resection. Extensive, post-operative monitoring for 3 years to 5 years is recommended and essential [9,10].

## References

- Jaffe RH (1926) Recurrent lipomatous tumour of the groin. Arch Pathol 1: 381-387.
- Vellios F, Baez J (1958) "Lipoblastomatosis: a tumour of foetal fat different from hibernoma; a report of a case, with observations on the embryogenesis of human adipose tissue." Am J Pathol 34(6): 1149-1159.
- Parisi M, Grenda E (2019) "Chest wall lipoblastoma in a 3 year old boy." Respir Med Case Rep 26: 200-202.
- Shi Y, Kang Yang (2019) "Lipoblastoma of the left kidney: a case report and review of literature." Ann Transl Med 7(7): 150.
- Guana R, Garofalo S (2019) "Infantile abdominal and pelvic lipoblastomas: a case series." European J Pediatr Surg Rep 7(1); e104-e109.
- Jandali D, Heilingoetter A (2018) "Large gland parotid gland lipoblastoma in a teenager." Front Paediatr 6: 50.
- Schoolmeester JK, Michal M (2018) "Lipoblastoma -like tumour of the vulva: clinicopathologic, immunohistochemical, fluorescent in situ hybridization and genomic copy number profiling study of seven cases." Mod Pathol 31: 1862-1868.
- Sakamoto S, Hashizume N (2018) "A large retroperitoneal lipoblastoma: a case report and literature review." Medicine (Baltimore) 97: e12711.
- Han JW, Kim H (2017) "Analysis of clinical features of lipoblastoma in children." Pediatr Haematol Oncol 34(04): 212-220.
- Brundler MA, Kurek KC (2018) "Submucosal colonic lipoblastoma presenting with colo- colonic intussusception in an infant." Pediatr Dev Pathol 21(04): 401-405.



This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License

To Submit Your Article Click Here:

[Submit Article](#)

DOI: [10.32474/SCSOAJ.2020.05.000209](https://doi.org/10.32474/SCSOAJ.2020.05.000209)



## Surgery & Case Studies: Open Access Journal

### Assets of Publishing with us

- Global archiving of articles
- Immediate, unrestricted online access
- Rigorous Peer Review Process
- Authors Retain Copyrights
- Unique DOI for all articles