

## ■ *Case Report*

# Extra-skeletal (periosteal Ewing's sarcoma) Ewing's sarcoma of distal femur of right leg in a 10 year old boy- A case report

P Chaudhary, NK Karn, BP Shrestha, GP Khanal, R Maharjan  
Department of Orthopaedics, B.P.Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, Nepal

### Abstract

Extra- skeletal Ewing's sarcoma is quite uncommon. The most common locations of Ewing's sarcoma of bone include metaphysis and diaphysis of long bones and flat bones of shoulder and pelvic girdles. Here, we present a case of a 10 year-old school-going boy who had presented to the Orthopaedic Department of B.P.Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, Nepal with the complaint of pain and swelling of posterior aspect of distal fourth of right thigh. Considering its rarity, we thought that this case needs to be reported.

**Keywords:** Skeletal, Periosteum, Tumor, Sarcoma, Wide excision

### Introduction

Ewing's sarcoma is the 4<sup>th</sup> common primary malignancy of bone, but it is 2<sup>nd</sup> most common in patients younger than 30 years of age and most common in patients younger than 10 years of age. Extra-skeletal Ewing's sarcoma is very uncommon. Ewing's sarcoma is a small malignant round cell tumour that arises from mesenchymal cells, predominantly in the medullary cavity of bone. In exceptional cases, it originates in the soft tissues and subsequently invades the underlying bone. A (sub) periosteal origin of Ewing's sarcoma is a very rare condition: only a few cases have been published so far.

Classically Ewing's sarcoma appears roentgenographically as destructive lesion in diaphysis of long bones with an onion skin periosteal reaction

### Case report

A 10 year old school going boy from remote hilly area of Nepal reported to the Department of

Orthopaedics, B.P.Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan with progressive painful swelling of posterior aspect of distal fourth of right thigh for 4 months. On examination, there was indistinct palpable mass in the posterior aspect of right thigh with warmth of overlying tissues. Superficial veins were dilated. Swelling was soft to firm in consistency which is fixed to underlying structures. A routine blood investigation was done. MRI scanning of mass was planned twice but couldn't be done because the child was moving during the procedure. So, FNAC of the mass was performed twice in two different centers which was suggestive of skin adnexal tumor in one center and some features of malignancy in another center but couldn't confirm that it was a case of Ewing's sarcoma. After doing pre anaesthetic check-up, mass was approached posteriorly and wide excision of tumor was done under general anesthesia and sent for histopathological examination.

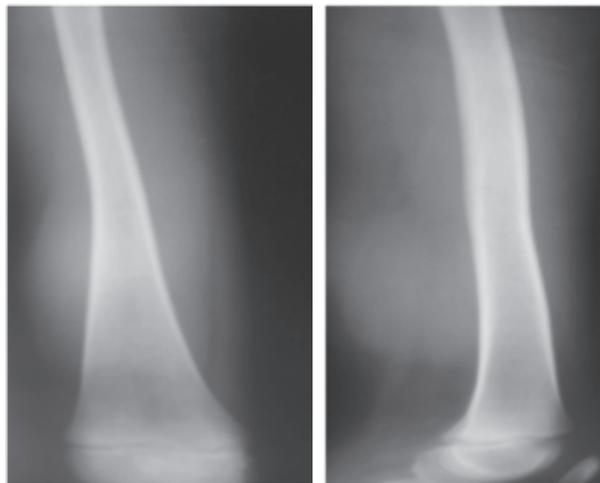
Tumor was arising from periosteum of posterior aspect of distal femur which was extending into the surrounding soft tissues. Incision was closed in layers and above knee POP slab was applied. Sutures were removed on the 14<sup>th</sup> post-operative day.

---

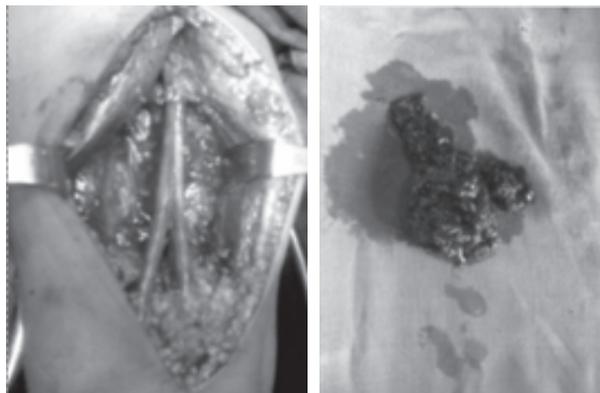
Address for correspondence:  
Dr. Pashupati Chaudhary, Assistant Professor  
Department of Orthopaedics, BPKIHS, Dharan  
Phone-00977-25-525555-3164  
E-mail: chaudharypashupati@yahoo.com



*Fig:-1 Pre-operative Photographs*



*Fig:-2 X-ray findings*



*Fig:- 3 Intra-operative Photographs*

Biopsy report revealed periosteal Ewing's Sarcoma. At 6<sup>th</sup> month follow-up, there was recurrence of tumor



*Fig:-4 Recurrence of tumor*

### **Discussion**

Ewing's sarcoma is the 4<sup>th</sup> common primary malignancy of bone, but it is 2<sup>nd</sup> most common in patients younger than 30 years of age and most common in patients younger than 10 years of age. Extra-Skeletal Ewing's sarcoma is very uncommon. The most common locations include metaphysis and diaphysis of long bones and flat bones of shoulder and pelvic girdles. A (sub) periosteal origin of Ewing's sarcoma is a very rare condition; only a few cases have been reported so far.

Classically, Ewing's sarcoma appears roentgenographically as destructive lesion in diaphysis of long bones with an onion skin periosteal reaction. Skip metastases are not reported in Ewing's sarcoma. regardless of location, an MRI of the entire bone should be ordered to evaluate the full extent of lesion as well as extension into soft tissues. All patients should have a base line roentgenogram and CT scan

of chest because the lungs are the most common site of metastases. If possible, bone scan should be performed

The worst prognostic factor is presence of distant metastases. Even with aggressive treatment, the patients with metastases have only a 20% chance of long-term survival. Fever, anaemia and elevated laboratory values(WBC, ESR, LDH) have been reported to indicate more extensive disease and therefore worst prognosis. Older age at presentation and male gender also have been reported with worst prognosis.

There are various treatment modalities described in literature. The treatment of Ewing's sarcoma must include neoadjuvant or adjuvant chemotherapy, or both to treat distant metastases. Before the use of multiagent chemotherapy, long term survival was less than 10%. Today most centers are reporting longterm survival rates between 60-70%.

Local treatment of the primary lesion is more controversial. Ewing's sarcoma is very sensitive to both chemotherapy and radiotherapy. It melts like ice with chemotherapy. There is increased rate of overall survival with wide resection of the primary tumor. Large, central, unresectable tumors are treated with radiation, whereas smaller, more accessible tumors have better prognosis when treated surgically.

Disease relapse is associated with a poor prognosis despite aggressive treatment of the relapse with further surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. Patients who have relapsed within first year of surgery have a worst prognosis than those who have an extended disease- free interval.

### Summary

Ewings sarcoma of bone is the 4<sup>th</sup> common primary malignancy, but it is 2<sup>nd</sup> most common in patients. younger than 30 years of age and most common in pts. younger than 10 years of age. Extra-Skeletal Ewing's sarcoma is very uncommon.

### References

1. Tefft M, Vawter GF, Mitus A: Paravertebral "round cell"tumors in children. Radiology 1969; 92:1501-1509.
2. Angervall L, Enzinger FM: Extraskelatal neoplasm resembling Ewing's sarcoma. Cancer 1975; 36:240-251.

3. Meister P, Gokel JM: Extraskelatal Ewing's sarcoma. Virchows Arch [Pathol Anat] 1978; 378:173-179.
4. Gillespie JJ, Roth LM, Wiles ER, et al: Extraskelatal Ewing's sarcoma: Histologic and ultrastructural observations in three cases. Am J Surg Pathol 1979;3:99-108.
5. Dickman PS, Triche TJ: Ultrastructural comparison of Ewing's sarcoma of bone with diverse pediatric soft tissue sarcoma resembling Ewing's sarcoma. Lab Invest 1981;44:15A-16A (Abstr)
6. Triche TJ: Round cell tumors in childhood: The application of newer techniques to the differential diagnosis. Perspect Pediatr Pathol 1980;7:279-322,
7. Wigger HJ, Salazar GH, Blanc WA: Extraskelatal Ewing's sarcoma: An "ultrastructural" study. Arch Pathol Lab Med 1977;101:446-449.
8. Soule EH, Newton W, Moon TE, et al: Extraskelatal Ewing's sarcoma: A preliminary review of 26 cases encountered in the Intergroup Rhabdomyosarcoma Study. Cancer 1978;42:259-264.
9. Hays DM, Soule EH, Lawrence W, et al: Extremity lesions in the Intergroup Rhabdomyosarcoma Study (IRS-1): A preliminary report. Cancer 48:1-8, 1982
10. Raney RB, Ragab AH, Ruymann FB, et al: Soft-tissue sarcoma of the trunk in childhood. Results of the Intergroup Rhabdomyosarcoma Study. Cancer 1982;49:2612-2616.
11. Tepper J, Glaubiger D, Lichter A, et al: Local control of Ewing's sarcoma of bone with radiotherapy and combination chemotherapy. Cancer 1980;46:1969-1976.
12. Glaubiger DL, Makuch RW, Schwarz J: Influence of prognostic factors on survival in Ewing's sarcoma. Natl Cancer Inst Monogr 1981;56:285-288,
13. Gehan EA, Nesbit ME, Burgert EO, et al: Prognostic factors in children with Ewing's sarcoma. Natl Cancer Inst Monogr 1981;56:273-278.
14. Mahoney JP, Ballinger WE, Alexander RW: So-called extraskelatal Ewing's sarcoma: Report of a case with ultrastructural analysis. Am J Clin Pathol 1978;70:926-931.

15. Chan RC, Sutow WW, Lindberg RD, et al: Management and results of localized Ewing's sarcoma. *Cancer* 1979;43:1001- 1006.
16. Gasparini M, Lombardi F, Gianni C, et al: Localized Ewing's sarcoma: Results of integrated therapy and analysis of failures. *Eur J Cancer* 1981;17:1205-1209
17. Perez CA, Tefft M, Nesbit M, et al: The role of radiation therapy in the management of nonmetastatic Ewing's sarcoma of bone. Report of the Intergroup Ewing's Sarcoma Study. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1981;7:141-149
18. Glaubiger DL, Tepper J, Makuch R: Ewing's sarcoma, in Levine AS (ed): *Cancer in the Young*. New York, Masson, 1982, pp 603-641
19. Kinsella TJ, Glaubiger DL, Deisseroth A, et al Intensive combined modality therapy including low dose TBI in high risk Ewing's sarcoma patients. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*, 1983 (in press for such a long time)
20. Dickman PS, Liotta LA, Triche TJ: Ewing's sarcoma: Characterization in established cultures and evidence of its histogenesis. *Lab Invest* 1982;47:375-382
21. Riopelle JL, Theriault JP: Le rhabdomyosarcoma alveolaire. *Ann Anat Pathol* 1956;1:88-111