A giant congenital lipoma over the back

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A 9-year-old male child was admitted with a history of gradually increasing swelling about $16 \times 8.5 \times 6$ cm in size over the back since birth (Fig. 1), with symptoms of difficulty in sleeping flat on bed in supine position and occasional mild pain over the swelling. Physical examination was likely suggestive of benign soft tissue tumor like lipoma. X-ray chest and routine blood investigations were within normal limit. FNAC report was suggestive of lipoma.

Fig. 1 A giant congenital swelling over the back

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Fig. 2 Intra operative findings showed a well circumscribed encapsulated mass, situated in the subcutaneous space just below the skin with no evidence of infiltration

Excision biopsy (Fig. 2) was done and the specimen was sent for histopathological study. Histopathology report was suggestive of Lipoma.

A lipoma is a commonest form of benign soft tissue tumor composed of adipose tissue [1]. Lipomas are usually relatively small with diameters of about 1–3 cm, but in rare cases they can grow over several years into “giant lipomas” that are 10–20 cm across and weigh up to 4–5 kg [2–3]. Giant lipomas are defined by Sanchez as size of at least 10 cm in one dimension or weighs a minimum of 1,000 g [4]. The most common sites are the superficial subcutaneous tissues in the neck, back, shoulder, trunk, thighs and the forearms. Usually, treatment of a lipoma is not necessary, unless the tumor becomes painful or restricts movement. They are usually removed for cosmetic reasons, if they grow very large, or for histopathology

to check that they are not a more dangerous type of tumor such as a liposarcoma. Lipomas are normally removed by simple excision or Liposuction [5–6]. There are new methods being developed like use of injection of compounds that trigger lipolysis, such as steroids or phosphatidylcholine or use of ultrasound waves to remove the lipomas without scarring. Lipomas growing in internal organs can be more dangerous, for example lipomas in the gastrointestinal tract can cause bleeding, ulceration or painful obstructions [7–8]. Only one case we found in the literature of congenital lipoma over back which was reported by Dr David Levi in 4th decade of 19th century. In conclusion we have reported a rare case of very unusual site of lipoma over back in younger age who presented with us as a swelling over the back since birth.

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