CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Multiple Symmetric Lipomas in a 63-Year-Old Man

A 63-year-old man was referred because of his unusual habitus. He showed prominent symmetric fatty tissue pads of firm elastic consistency on the shoulder girdle, neck, upper arms, and thighs. This typical distribution confirmed at a glance the diagnosis of multiple symmetric lipomatosis (MSL), also known as Launois-Bensaude syndrome for the two physicians who first described this condition. Uncapsulated lymphomas develop at the typical sites. The face is usually not affected. Typically the patients have or have had a history of alcohol abuse. There is no specific laboratory parameter for MSL. In this case the lipomas did not react to dietetic measures. Surgical intervention is a treatment option in the presence of pain, compression, or for esthetic reasons. In the case described here surgery was indicated due to a lipoma located dorsally at the neck–shoulder junction, the size of an apple, that was intermittently painful, inconvenient for dressing and undressing, and prominent under the patient's clothes. However, due to the nature of the lipomas (uncapsulated), surgical treatment involves the risk of recurrence.

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