Rhabdomyoma

Rhabdomyoma is *a rare*, completely **benign** tumor. It is a variant of rhabdomyosarcoma, which is malignant. Both tumors originate from the mesenchyme, specifically from striated skeletal muscle.[1]

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This tumor was described by Jaroslav Hlava for the first time – most famous Czech pathologist , the first professor of pathology at the
newly established Czech Medical Faculty in Prague.
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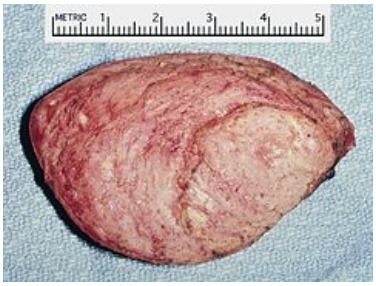
Division

The tumor can appear both prenatally and postnatally. 2 forms are distinguished based on onset:

- **adult**;
- **fetal**.

According to the location of the tumor, 2 types are distinguished:

- **cardiac** (in the heart), it may manifest in association with tuberous sclerosis or unrelated to it;
- **extra cardiac** (soft tissue), head, neck.



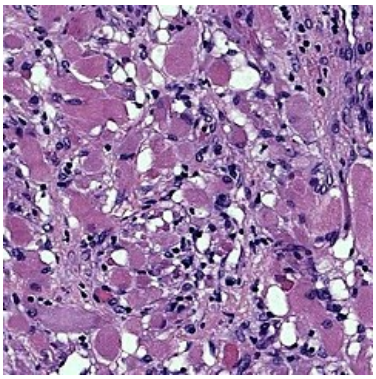
Cardiac rhabdomyoma

Macroscopy

The tumor commonly occurs in children up to 1 year of age. **Macroscopically** it presents as **multiple light nodes** in the myocardium, which protrude into the heart chambers.

Microscopy

In the microscope we can see **large cells** with abundant cytoplasm **filled with vacuoles of glycogen**, in between the vacuoles there are thin cytoplasm strips filling out the space between the nucleus and the cell membrane – the so called **spider cells/spider-like cells**. In addition we can detect actin and desmin in the neoplastic cells, this is a proof of these cells being derived from muscle cells. [1]


Microscopic image of fetal rhabdomyoma

Prognosis

Depends on the extent of the disease. If the child survives, the nodes regress over time.

Reference

Related articles

- Mesenchymal tumors
- Cardiac tumors
- Rhabdomyosarkoma

References

1.

Literature

- MIŘEJOVSKÝ, Pavel – BEDNÁŘ, Blahoslav. *Obecná patologie.* 1. edition. Praha : Karolinum, 1994. 84 pp. ISBN 80-7066-950-0.