

## CONGENITAL TUFTED ANGIOMA.

**Case report.** A 12-month-old little girl presented an irregularly roundish plaque, 3x4 cm, red-purplish in color, adherent to the deep layers, located on the left mammary region.

The lesion, which was present since birth as a small erythematous macule, underwent a slow growing, proportionally to that one of the entire body. However, 10 days before our observation the lesion significantly increased in size and consistence, getting intensely erythematous and edematous, infiltrated and painful at superficial and deep palpation ( Fig. 1). The patient was in good health and the laboratory and instrumental examinations did not show significant alterations, ruling out the diagnosis of Kasabach-Merritt syndrome.

The histological examination showed in the dermis the presence of small roundish angiomatous lobules composed by endothelial cells (Fig. 2), leading to the final diagnosis of **tufted angioma**.

A systemic treatment - prednisone 1 mg/kg per day tapered and withdrawn in 2 months - induced a significant regression of the symptoms and signs.

On the further controls, which were carried out for more than one year, only a non infiltrated erythematous macule was observed.

**Clinical features.** Tufted angioma (1) is a rare, acquired or congenital vascular tumor, first reported by Wilson-Jones e Orkin (3). It belongs to capillary hemangiomas (1). It affects children and adolescents without sex preference. Familial cases were reported. The lesion, which usually affects the neck and the upper part of the trunk, is characterized by marked polymorphism (2), ranging from macules to plaques and nodules. It can grow progressively. In other cases it can persist unchanged or spontaneously regress in years. Kasabach-Merritt syndrome can complicate extensive cases of tufted angioma.

In contrast with the variable clinical features, the **pathological findings** are typical, showing in the dermis a capillary proliferation of endothelial cells and pericytes, which are grouped in roundish lobules. Superimposable findings were reported in the Japanese literature as progressive capillary hemangioma or angioblastoma of Nakagawa.

According to the age of the patient and the size of the lesion, numerous **treatments** such as surgery, cryosurgery, electrocoagulation, dye laser, systemic corticosteroids and interferon were suggested. Such treatments were not consistently successful.



Fig. 1

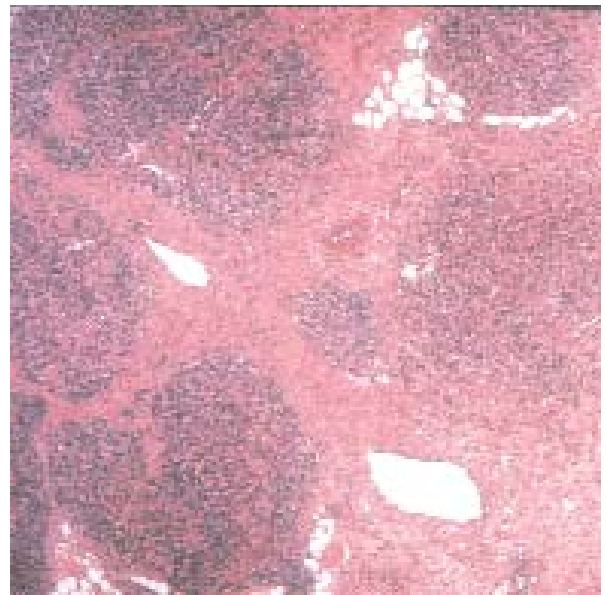


Fig. 2

### References

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- 3) Wilson Jones E. - Malignant vascular tumours. *Clin. Exp. Dermatol.* 1, 287-312, 1976.