Breast Fibromatosis Imaging Patterns Mimicking Breast Carcinoma -» Emphasis on Young Women

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Abstract

Purpose: To describe the clinical, radiological and pathological features observed in our series of 12 cases of primary Breast Fibromatosis (BF), a rare, benign stromal tumor.

Methods and materials: IRB approved retrospective descriptive study. Clinical presentation, imaging and histopathological findings for each case of BF diagnosed by US-guided biopsies in a period of 8 years were analyzed.

Results: Twelve cases were identified with ages ranging from 17 to 66 years old. Distinct patterns were evident according to clinical conditions and age of presentation:

- Recent breast implants: 4 women with implants (prior surgery 1 to 5 years 290) presented las hypoechoic vascularized, aggressively growing masses.
- Older than 25 years: 5 patients (55-56 years). BF presented as a suspicious solid, unilateral breast mass, two cases mimicked malignancy (B-RADS 5) in all imaging modalities.
- Younger than 25 years: 3 patients (17-21 years). BF presented as rapidly growing multifocal, bilateral, palpable masses with nipple retraction.

All US had highly suspicious irregular, poorly marginated, hypoechoic, vascularized lesions ranging from 2-5 cm. MRI showed a multifocal- bilateral non-mass enhancement after injection of gadolinium.

After surgery and a follow-up period ranging from 1 to 65 months all patients are disease-free. Histologically, these three patterns are identical, characterized by an infiltrating, loose spindle cell proliferation, with fibroblastic cells and variable amounts of extracellular collagen and scant lymph infiltrates.

Conclusion: Breast fibromatosis, though pathologically alike, in very young women has a clinical and radiological presentation different to what is known and classically reported in the literature.