

Introduction

- Phyllodes tumors are rare, usually benign, fibroepithelial neoplasms, most often associated with breast origin.
- These tumors account for less than 1% of all breast neoplasms diagnosed.
- Even more rare are vulvar phyllodes tumors of which only 6 cases have been reported in medical literature.
- The exact tissues of origin from which these vulvar neoplasms arise have been debated and were historically thought to originate from aberrant breast tissue from remnants of the milk-ridge.
- Current histologic theory now leans towards acceptance of origin from anogenital mammary-like glands.

Purpose

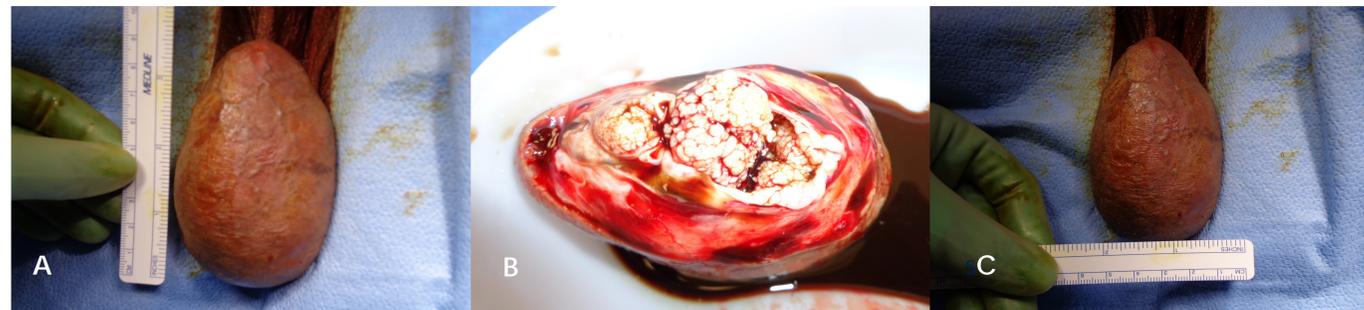
The purpose of this case report is to educate the medical community about the rarity of vulvar Phyllodes tumors, discuss the origin of such tumors, shed light on histologic requirements for diagnosis of phyllodes tumors in the vulva, and review treatment options.

Case Report

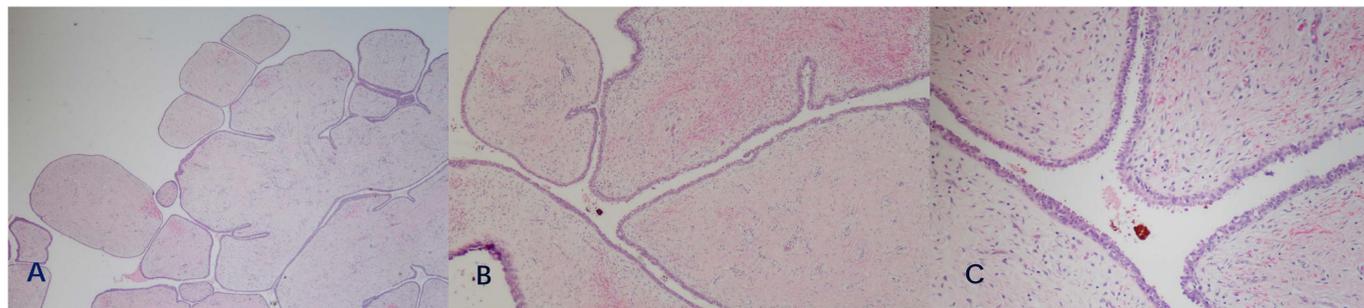
The above vulvar phyllodes tumor was discovered on the right labia majora on a 24 year old, nulliparous female.

- Presented with a large vulvar mass appearing over 4 months duration.
- Measured approximately 10x5cm.
- Patient complained of pain and irritation affecting her daily activities.
- Affected patients self perception and confidence due to disfiguring nature of lesion.
- After surgical excision, patient returned for follow-up and was found to be completely healed without lasting effects on activities of daily living.

Images



A&C. Tan, mobile, pedunculated, polypoid lesion on right labia majora measuring 9.0 x 6.5 x 4.5 cm in dimension.
B. Sectioning reveals cystic and papillary tumor comprising the bulk of the tissue with only a thin overlying covering of skin.



A&B. 2X and 4X magnification showing classic leaf like structure consistent with phyllodes tumor.
C. 10x magnification showing bland stromal proliferation with few mitoses.

Discussion

Surgical excision was performed on above vulvar lesion and resulting pathology concluded the presence phyllodes tumor arising from anogenital mammary-like glands. Histological requirements for diagnosis of phyllodes tumors in the vulva are similar to characteristics in breast tissue and include characteristic leaf-like configuration as well as mesenchymal components with cellularity ranging from bland to moderately cellular with mitosis. In this case, the lesion was shown to have numerous leaf-like projections and bland stroma with few mitosis, features overall consistent with phyllodes tumor. No adjacent normal appearing breast tissue was observed.

Conclusions

- Vulvar Phyllodes tumors are rare fibroepithelial lesions with only approximately 6 cases being reported in the literature to date since 1947.
- These lesions can greatly affect a patient's activities of daily living and also self-confidence due to the disfiguring nature and ill appearance in such an intimate area.
- Cure is available as complete surgical excision appears to be sufficient treatment.
- Phyllodes tumors of the vulva can recur.
- Vulvar phyllodes tumors have yet to be described as malignant, in contrast to their breast counterparts.
- Healthcare professionals should be aware of this rare pathological finding in cases of vulvar or perianal lesions and careful histologic classification is warranted.

References

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