Teaching NeuroImages: Recurrence of a sural intraneural ganglion cyst after sural nerve resection

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Figure 1 Photograph of the multinodular mass, leg MRI, excised sural nerve, and histologic specimen

(A) Photograph shows the multinodular tumoral mass (arrows). (B) MRI shows intraneural multiple cysts in the nerve with very high intensity in T2-weighted image. (C) Excised sural nerve and (D) histologic specimen show a large cystic space in the nerve.

Figure 2 Photograph of the recurrent mass and ankle MRI

(A) Photograph and (B) MRI show the recurrent cyst originating from the subtalar joint. Arrows show connection of the cyst and the joint.

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A 57-year-old man presented with a painful multinodular tumoral mass developing, over 7 months, in the lateral part of his right leg. MRI demonstrated a multinodular sural intraneural ganglion cyst. The swollen sural nerve was surgically removed, and the tumor adhered to the subtalar joint. The surgical specimen revealed an intraneural ganglion cyst (figure 1). Sixteen months after the surgery, the tumor recurred and was excised with the adhered subtalar joint capsule (figure 2). The recurring cyst was not connected to the peripheral nerve. This case highlights the synovial (articular) origin of intraneural ganglion cysts.¹

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

A.O.: study concept and design, acquisition and interpretation of data, writing of draft manuscript. T. Hotta, H. Kawashima, H. Yamagiwa, N. Endo, H. Umezū: discussion of case and revision of manuscript.

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