

Axillary Nerve Schwannoma Mimicking of a Breast Cancer Lymph Node Metastasis: A Case Report

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Background and Objective: Breast cancer is the most common cancer among the women all around the world. Regional recurrence commonly occurs in the ipsilateral axillary area but contra-lateral axillary involvement has been reported in the literature. Here we report a breast cancer patient with a suspicious axillary mass that was found during follow up, proved to be benign, in order to raise awareness and highlight the importance of precise diagnosis before starting treatment.

Case Report: Our case is a 46 years old female who has undergone right mastectomy and axillary dissection for infiltrating ductal carcinoma of right breast 2 years ago and an enlarged lymph node was found in ultrasound exam of left (contra lateral) axilla that fine needle aspiration biopsy of the mass showed tumoral infiltration so she was advised for chemo therapy. The patient refused chemo and came to us and operation was done. At surgery there were 4 enlarged lymph nodes in level 1 of axillary area that were removed and also a round mass above the axillary vein near the brachial plexus that was excised. Pathology report documented the diagnosis of benign shwanoma and lymph nodes were free of tumoral involvement, so the patient didn't need any further treatment.

Conclusion: Although contra lateral axillary metastasis has been reported in breast cancer patients several times in the literature, but it must be proved by proper tissue diagnosis before any aggressive treatment.