

A RARE CONGENITAL HAND TUMOUR

**Dr. V. Bhattacharya, M. S., M.Ch.,*

***Dr. J. K. Sinha, M.S., F.R.C.S.*

****Dr. F. M. Tripathi, M.S., M.Ch.,*

*****Dr. (Mrs.) S. Khanna, M.D.*

A 9 days old female child was brought to the hospital with a congenital, but rapidly increasing swelling on the left hand and associated syndactyly of the ring and little finger on the right side.

It was a normal hospital delivery following two abortion earlier. There was no history of any major illness or sepecific drug intake during her entire period of pregnancy.

On examination, the swelling was occupying the tip of the fourth metacarpal bone of the left hand. Phalengas were not felt. The swelling was oval in shape with a small projection at the apex closely resembling tip of the finger. This 3 cms. diameter swelling was pinkish in colour, tense, shining, attached to the head of the fourth metacarpal by a narrow pedicle (Fig. 1). On palpation, it felt tense, cystic, non-tender, local temperature not raised, non reducible, non pulsatile, and brilliantly translucent. No bone could be felt and the nail was absent. The adjacent little finger was pushed and deviated laterally.

There was associated congenital constriction rings at the level of the proximal phalanx of the adjacent middle and opposite index finger. The right hand had a unilateral single,

simple, partial type of syndactyly involving the ring and little finger. There was a small roundish, soft mobile, non tender growth at the base of it (Fig. 2).

Radiologically, there was homogeneous radioopaque soft tissue shadow occupying the underdeveloped first phalanx of the ring finger. No evidence of bone was visualised (Fig. 3).

Histological evidence showed hamartomatous tumour showing lymphangiomatous spaces, vascular spaces, islands of cartilage, areas like pre-cartilage and proliferation of sweat glands and foetal fat. Dominant element was lymphatics (Fig. 4 and 5).

The tumour was excised. The syndactyly shall be dealt later when the child is little grown up.

Summary

A case of rare congenital hand tumour is presented.

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* Lecturer ** Professor and Head *** Reader **** Reader in Pathology
Plastic Surgery Section, Institute of Medical Science, Banaras Hindu University.

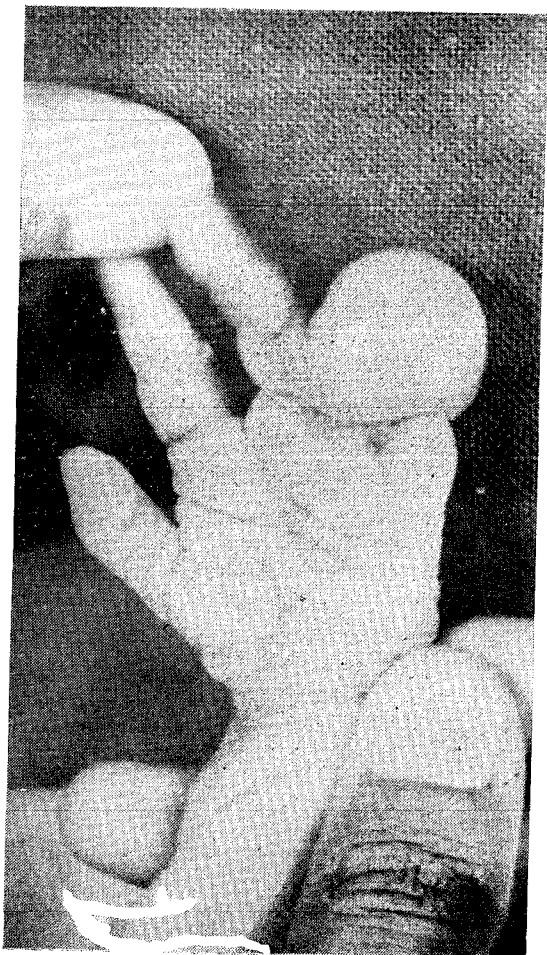


Fig. 1. Showing the tense cystic tumour on the top of the fourth metacarpal bone.



Fig. 2. Showing associated syndactyly of the right ring and little fingers with constriction rings of adjacent middle and opposite index finger.



Fig. 3. Radiograph showing soft tissue shadow of the tumour over underdeveloped first phalanx of the ring finger.

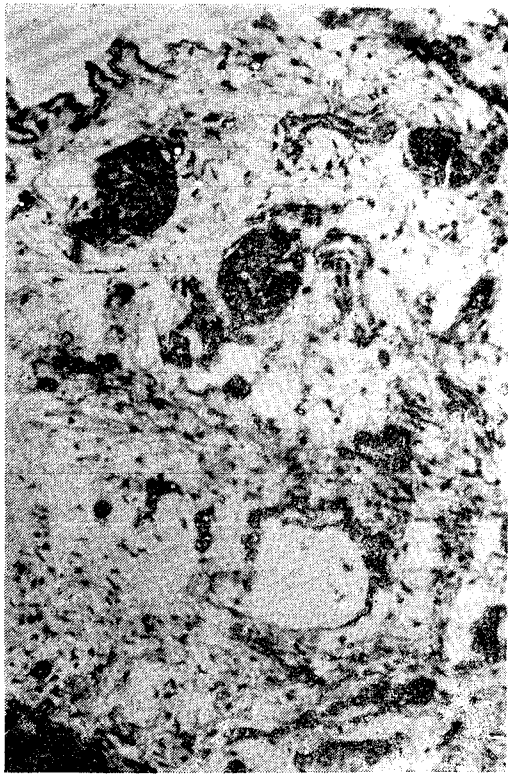


Fig. 4. Photomicrograph showing dilated lymphatic spaces and also few irregularly scattered sweat glands in a loose myxomatous stroma. The convoluted lining of one large lymphatic cyst can be seen in left upper corner (HJE 125).

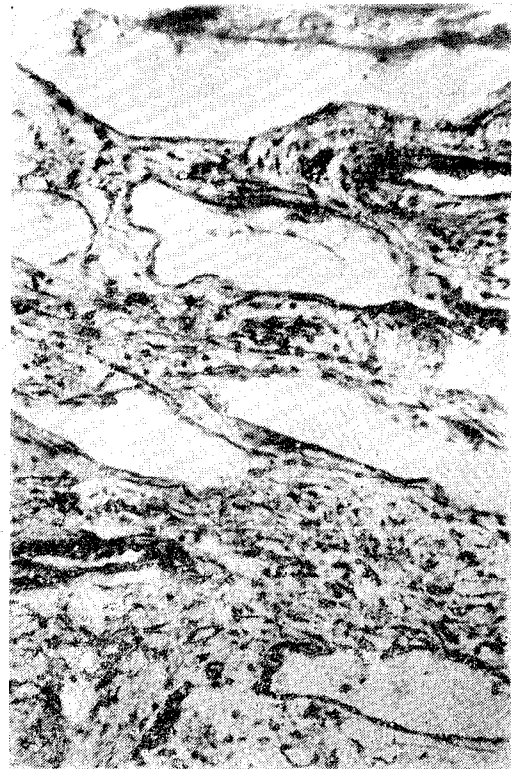


Fig. 5. Photomicrograph showing large number of dilated lymphatics. Note the diffuse lymphocytic sprinkling of the stroma (HJE 125).