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## Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma: important differential diagnosis in acral tumor lesions

*Sarcoma fibromixóide de baixo grau: importante diagnóstico diferencial nas lesões tumorais acrais*

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### ABSTRACT

Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma (LGFS) is a rare, indolent spindle cell sarcoma with a risk of recurrence and metastasis. We report the case of a 34-year-old man with a tumor in his thumb that had recurred after excision eight years ago, with slow and progressive growth. The pathological examination was suggestive of SFBG, and we proceeded with the disarticulation of the phalanx. The patient remains in follow-up, with no evidence of metastases. Although rare, it is essential to recognize the diagnosis of an LGFS with its potential risk of recurrences and metastases, especially as a differential diagnosis of acral soft tissue tumors.

**Keywords:** Dermatology; Neoplasms; Sarcoma

### RESUMO

O sarcoma fibromixóide de baixo grau (SFBG) é um sarcoma de células fusiformes raro, indolente, porém com risco de recorrência e metástase. Reportamos o caso de um homem de 34 anos, com tumor no polegar recidivado após exérese, há oito anos, com crescimento lento e progressivo. O exame anatomopatológico foi sugestivo de SFBG. Procedeu-se à desarticulação da falange. O paciente mantém seguimento, sem evidências de metástases. Apesar de raro, reconhecer o diagnóstico de um SFBG é importante, levando-se em conta seu risco potencial de recorrências e metástases, principalmente como diagnóstico diferencial de tumorações de partes moles acrais.

**Palavras-chave:** Dermatologia; Neoplasias; Sarcoma

## Case report

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## INTRODUCTION

Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma (LGFS) is a rare, slow-growing spindle cell sarcoma that tends to affect young adults and is common in the trunk and proximal extremities.<sup>1</sup> Despite an indolent clinical course, LGFS can progress to local recurrence and metastasis, most commonly to the lungs.<sup>2</sup> We report a rare case of LGFS in the thumb and its treatment.

## CASE REPORT

A 34-year-old male farmer with no comorbidities presented a slow-growing, painless, 5-cm-diameter tumor, which was excised at the beginning of the condition but had local recurrence after eight years. Dermatological examination revealed a hardened, adherent tumor with a multilobulated appearance and visible telangiectasias on the right thumb (Figures 1 and 2). The biopsy revealed spindle cell mesenchymal neoplasm with cytological atypia, but without relevant mitotic activity or necrosis, distributed in collagenous and myxoid areas in the dermis

(Figure 3), suggesting the diagnosis of LGFS. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) detected a mass measuring approximately 5 cm x 3 cm, well delimited, lobulated, proximal to the long flexor tendon. We conducted a wide resection with disarticulation at the level of the metacarpophalangeal joint. Pathological examination confirmed the diagnosis of low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma with free margins. The patient did not present metastases or recurrence after six months of follow-up.

## DISCUSSION

Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma (LGFS) is a rare, slow-growing spindle cell sarcoma that affects young adults.<sup>1</sup> Despite its indolent clinical course, LGFS is a distinct variant of fibrosarcoma,<sup>1</sup> and it can progress to local recurrence and metastasis, particularly in the long term.<sup>2</sup> Most cases of LGFS have been shown to harbor a common t(7;16) (q34;p11) translocation, producing a gene called FUS/GREB3L2, which is characteristic of LGFS but with uncertain significance.<sup>3</sup> Clinically, it is a deep, painless, well-defined mass, more common in the trunk or lower limbs.

It has been reported in numerous anatomical sites, such as the head, neck, heart, and kidney.<sup>1,4,5</sup> However, the acral location is atypical. In a review, it was possible to find 24 cases of acral LGFS, two of them involving a phalanx or nail.<sup>6</sup>

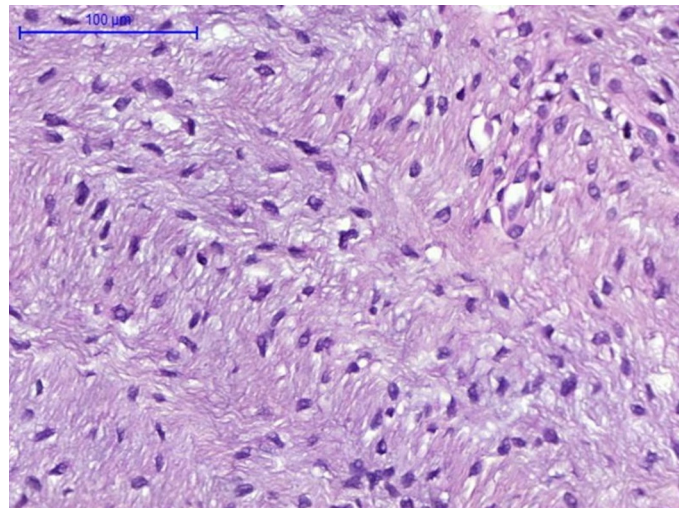
Diagnostic confirmation requires an incisional biopsy, and anatomopathological examination shows alternating myxoid areas with fibrous sites and slightly pleomorphic cells, low or moderate cellularity, and absence of mitotic figures or necrosis. Fine needle aspiration, in turn, can make diagnosis challenging, as the findings overlap with other myxoid lesions.<sup>7,8</sup> Immunohistochemistry can be positive for vimentin and other markers, such as Bcl-2, EMA, and CD99, but without specificity.<sup>1</sup> Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) can determine the



**FIGURE 1:** Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma. Tumor in the right thumb measuring 5 cm x 3 cm



**FIGURE 2:** Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma. Tumor in the right thumb, with exposure of telangiectasia and multilobulated appearance



**FIGURE 3:** Area with fibrous and myxoid stroma with spindle cells (H & E; 100x increase)

surgical area and assess local infiltration and/or metastasis without pathognomonic findings.<sup>9</sup> The common differential diagnoses are desmoid fibromatosis, nodular fasciitis, perineurioma, neurofibroma, myxoma, and ossifying fibromyxoid tumor.<sup>1</sup>

Treatment consists of complete excision of the lesion, which can be challenging depending on the location. There is no need for adjuvant therapy. However, there is a risk of recurrence or metastasis,<sup>6</sup> characteristics that justify long-term follow-up.

## CONCLUSION

LGFS in acral sites is uncommon and may delay diagnosis and proper management. It is essential to recognize and include LGFS in the differential diagnosis of tumors involving acral areas due to its ability to progress to late recurrences and metastases. ●

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Approval of the final version of the manuscript; study design and planning; preparation and writing of the manuscript; data collection, analysis, and interpretation; critical literature review.

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