INTRODUCTION

Tumours formed from peripheral nerve sheaths are rare in the shoulder\(^1\). Benign tumours can be classified as traumatic neuromas, neurofibromas and schwannomas. There are also malignant tumours of peripheral nerve sheath cells\(^2\). Solitary neurofibromas and schwannomas cause similar signs and symptoms, with no distinctive pathognomonic clinical features between them\(^3\). They may present as an isolated mass of uncertain origin and evolution time. Despite its rarity, the unawareness of its existence and nature can lead to unnecessary surgery and a consequent risk of catastrophic iatrogenic loss of function\(^1\)-\(^3\).

CLINICAL CASE

We present the case of a 80-year-old female referred to an orthopaedic surgery clinic because of a large painless mass of the right shoulder (RS), with one year of evolution. There was no history of trauma, involvement of any other joint or systemic complaints.

On physical examination, a mobile mass, with elastic consistency and 9 cm of larger diameter, was palpated in the upper posterior region of the RS. There was no tenderness or functional limitation on exploration.

The ultrasound revealed “...with posterior localization in relation to the right shoulder, a liquid collection, measuring about 8.2x6.5x4.3cm”. For better characterization, a computed tomography (CT) scan (Figure 1) and then a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (Figure 2) were requested.

Given the clinical suspicion of a giant synovial cyst the patient underwent complete surgical resection of the mass, which took place without any complications or functional impairment of the right upper limb. We used a Judet approach, working through the infraspinatus and teres minor interval, retracting teres minor inferiorly (avoiding injury to posterior branch of axillary nerve) and retracting infraspinatus superiorly (avoiding injury to suprascapular nerve and artery).

Macroscopically the surgical specimen was a mass...
unnecessary surgery and to minimize the risk of iatrogenic injury of the involved nerve \(^1,2\).

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**REFERENCES**