Leiomyoma of the nose
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ABSTRACT
Leiomyomas are benign neoplasms that are thought to originate from the vascular smooth muscle. They have a propensity to arise from the gastrointestinal tract, female genital tract (uterus) and subcutaneous tissue. The nasal cavity is an uncommon site for a leiomyoma. We report a 24-year-old woman with a rare nasal leiomyoma. A brief review of the literature and histological variations are described.

Keywords: leiomyoma, nasal cavity, nasal turbinate

INTRODUCTION
Vascular leiomyomas are benign tumours, which usually present as a small, painless mass. The auricle, nose, lip, and neck are the more common sites of occurrence. The nasal cavity is a rare site for this tumour. Simple surgical excision yields high cure rates. The exact origin of these tumours is not known, but most agree that the aetiology is probably from smooth muscle cells in the walls of blood vessels.

CASE REPORT
A 24-year-old woman presented to the ENT outpatient department with recurrent episodes of spontaneous right nasal bleeding for two months, which used to stop on its own. On endoscopical examination, a mass measuring 1 cm × 2 cm was seen arising from the middle turbinate of the right nasal cavity (Fig. 1). Endoscopical resection of the nasal mass was performed. Histopathological study showed it to be a leiomyoma (Fig. 2). The postoperative period was uneventful with no recurrence.

DISCUSSION
The rarity of smooth muscle tumours in the nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses is probably due to the paucity of smooth muscle fibres in this location. In the nasal cavity, three hypotheses have been given for the origin of smooth muscle tumours: from aberrant undifferentiated mesenchyme, from smooth muscle elements in the wall of blood vessels, or from both sources.(1,2) Most authors support the idea that the vascular smooth muscle is the origin of the tumour.

This is in agreement with findings from Barr et al (1990) and Llorente et al (1996), as other types of muscle are absent in the septum.(2) The most common site for origin of a nasal leiomyoma is from the turbinates. Other sites that have been reported are the septum, sinuses, nasal vestibule and floor of the nose.(3,4)

Benign smooth muscle neoplasms have been classified into:(5)
- leiomyoma (solid leiomyoma)
- angiomyoma (vascular leiomyoma)
- epitheloid leiomyoma (leiomyoblastoma)
It can be concluded that angiomyomas are rare tumours and are benign by nature. They should be differentiated from neurofibroma, other spindle cell tumours, myofibroma, granular cell tumour and leiomyosarcoma. Immunohistochemistry is precise and reliable for definitive diagnosis for an angiomyoma. Prognosis of nasal leiomyoma is excellent after complete excision.

REFERENCES