

HISTOLOGICAL TYPES OF FIBROADENOMA OF THE BREAST AND THEIR CLINICAL PROFILE IN WOMEN

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Fibroadenoma is a benign tumor like lesion of the breast. These frequently cause anxiety among the affected women, regarding malignant changes in these lesions. This study describes some of the clinical features of women with fibroadenoma of the breast.

Seventy eight female patients clinically diagnosed as having fibroadenoma of the breast and admitted to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital, were interviewed using a structured questionnaire. The morphological characteristics of the lumps were recorded after excision. Eight two biopsies were examined by staining paraffin wax sections with Haematoxylin and eosin.

Of the 82 fibroadenomas examined 56.1 % were found to be pericanalicular type; where as, 23.2% were of the intracanalicular varieties and 20.7% showed a mixed pattern. In those below the age of 25 pericanalicular type was observed in 57.7%. In the older age groups all three patterns were seen with approximately equal frequencies. Lumps less than 2.5 cm diameter and less than 3 months duration were predominantly pericanalicular and mixed types (67.5% & 62.5%); those more than 4 cm diameter and more than 6 months duration were mainly intracanalicular (53%). Tumors weighting less than 25 g were mainly (59%) associated with a pericanalicular pattern. Above 25 g the intracanalicular pattern was predominant (56%).

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The pericanalicular type was common in both single and married patients, being 66.7% and 52.5% respectively. Among the 46 patients with pericanalicular type, 27 patients (58.6%) were mentally depressed due to disasters. Forty-nine percent of those who had attained menarche below 13 – 14 years had pericanalicular fibroadenoma.

This study shows that smaller lumps are mainly of pericanalicular and mixed patterns; whereas the larger lumps have an intracanalicular pattern. A marginally significant association ($p=0.08$) was observed between the type of fibroadenoma and the size of the lumps. There was no significant association between the type of fibroadenoma and other clinical features such as age groups, duration, weight of the lump, marital status, depression and age at menarche.