

Case Report

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## Giant liposarcoma of the back with 4 types of histopathology: a case report

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### Abstract

The incidence of soft tissue tumours, both malignant and benign, is very common. However, the coexistence of 4 types of histopathology is rare and the aim of this article is to present one treated in our Department. An 87-year-old Greek man was treated in our Department for a huge tumour on his back, under local anaesthesia. The pathology report of the specimen referred 4 types of neoplasia. This case represents this incidence in a giant liposarcoma of the back.

### Introduction

Soft tissue tumours are very common in the general population. Most of them are benign and they require excision for functional and appearance reasons. In literature the incidence of 4 types of histopathology in a specimen is very rare[1] and our aim is to present one.

### Case presentation

An 87-year-old Greek man, who had been generally active and his past medical history was free of disease, was referred to our hospital for a giant swelling on his back. He has had this tumor since at least 10 years, but he had not undergone an operation as it has been asymptomatic (Fig. 1). Due to the dimensions of the tumor, the patient has undertaken a chest computer tomography scan in order to determine the borders and the invasion of the tumor to the surrounding tissues (Fig. 2)

The patient was referred for a surgical removal of the tumor. Due to his age, he has not taken general anesthesia and the whole operation has been under regional anesthesia. Intraoperatively, a giant liposarcoma, 18 × 14 × 6 cm, was found and been removed and also another tumor, 12 × 10 × 8 cm, white and homogenous (Fig. 3, 4, 5).

The pathology report referred 4 types of neoplasia. There was growth of mesenchymal neoplasia with figure of non-differentiated liposarcoma. There was also growth of well-differentiated liposarcoma (Fig. 6), whereas in the non-differentiated parts of the tumor malignant fibrous histiocytoma (Fig. 7), osteosarcoma (Fig. 8), chondrosarcoma (Fig. 9) and parts with pericellular pattern were found. The skin segment was soft fibroma.

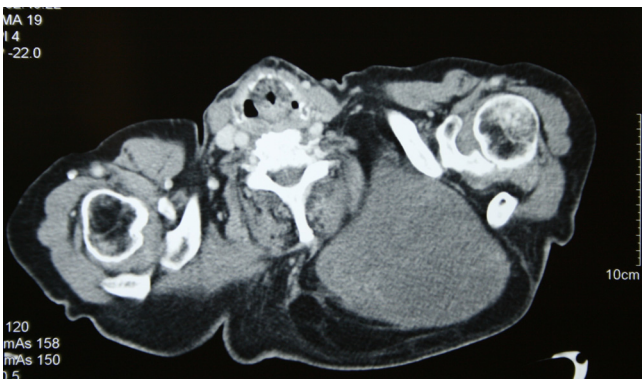


**Figure 1**  
Preoperative image of the patient

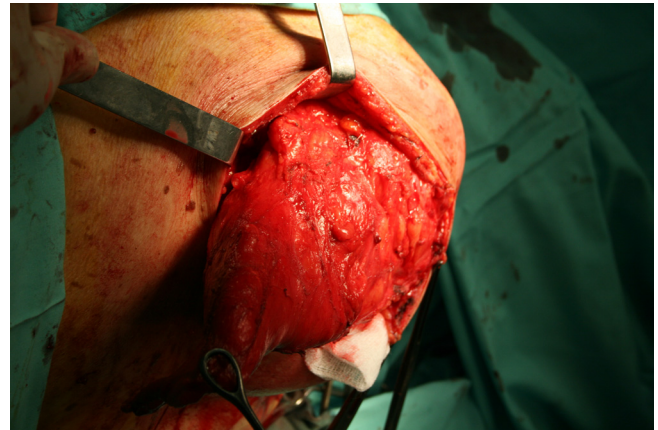
The perioperative period was uneventful and the patient was discharged home 3 days later.

**Discussion**

The existence of 4 histological types of neoplasia is very rare and was treated surgically under local anesthesia. Pre-operative evaluation of such tumours is essential in order to determine the borders and characterize the tumour [2]. This can be done either with CT scan or MRI scan. The def-



**Figure 2**  
Chest CT scan of the patient



**Figure 3**  
The tumor during the operation

inite diagnosis is set by histology and requires careful analysis of the specimen.

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Authors' contributions**

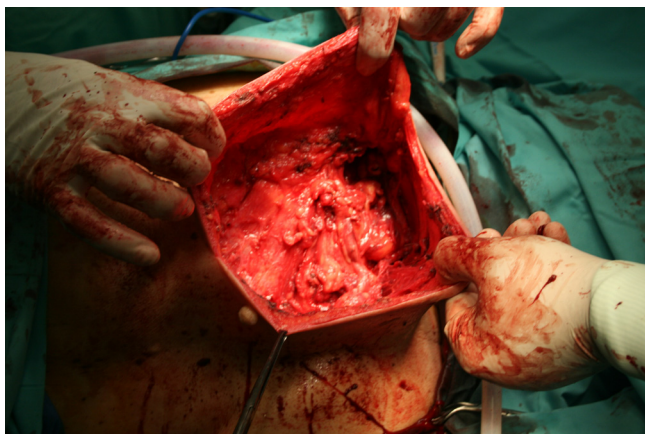
PP analyzed and interpreted patient's files and wrote the paper. PK and ES contributed in the writing and also assisted at the operation. AL and HG performed the histological examination. PM assisted at the operation and looked after the patient postoperatively. TP was the responsible professor for the patient, decided and performed the operation.

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

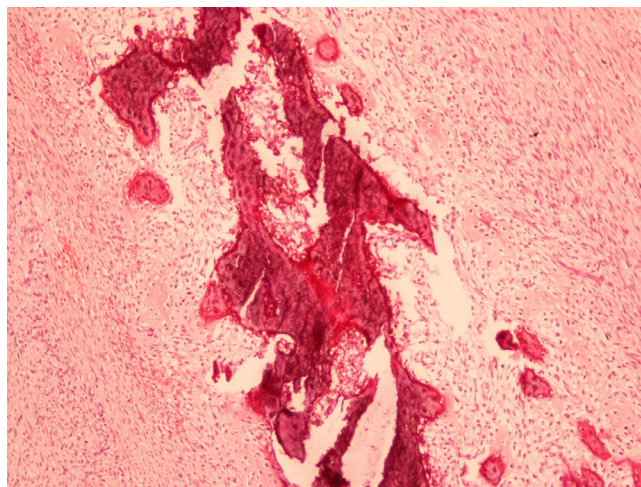


**Figure 4**  
The actual size of the tumor

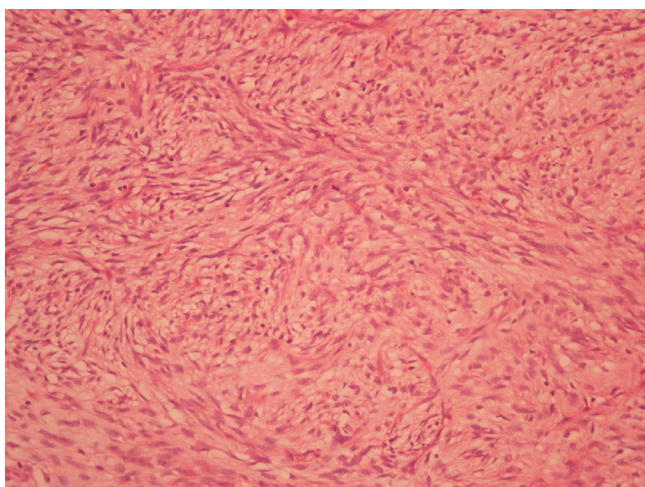




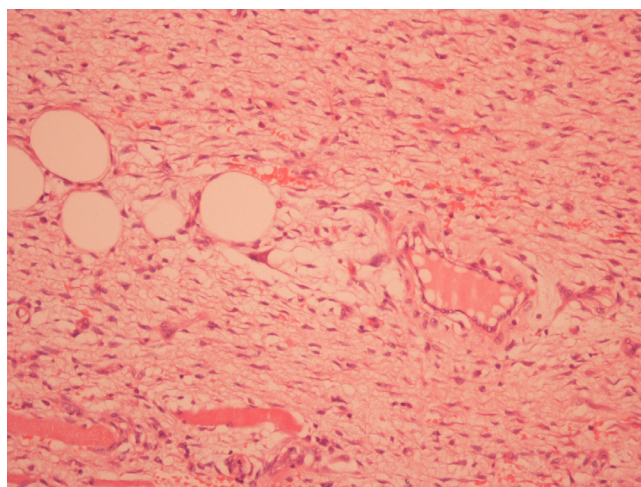
**Figure 5**  
The area of the removed lesion



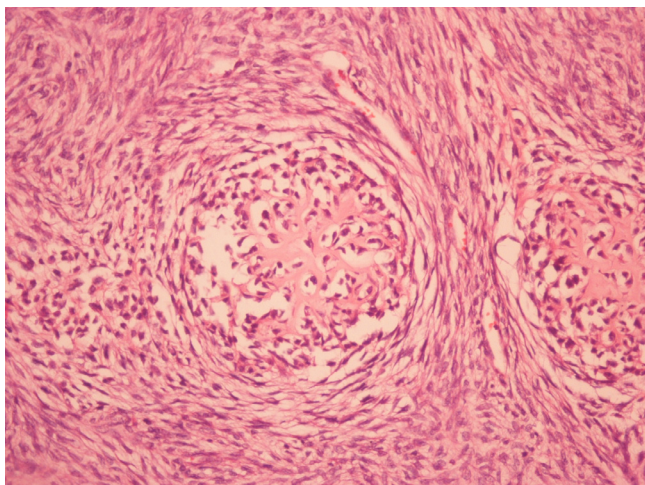
**Figure 7**  
Non-differentiated part of the tumor with the pattern of malignant fibrous histiocytoma (x 100) hematoxylin and eosin staining



**Figure 6**  
Growth of well differentiated liposarcoma (x 100) hematoxylin and eosin staining



**Figure 8**  
Part of osteosarcoma (X 200) hematoxylin and eosin staining



**Figure 9**  
**Part of chondrosarcoma (x 100) hematoxylin and eosin staining**

### Consent

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this case report and accompanying images. A copy of the written consent is available for review by the Editor-in-Chief of this journal.

### References

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2. Lahat G, Madewell JE, Anaya DA, Qiao W, Tuvin D, Benjamin RS, Lev DC, Pollock RE: **Computed tomography scan-driven selection of treatment for retroperitoneal liposarcoma histologic subtypes.** *Cancer* 2009, **115(5)**:1081-90.

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