

## **Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans**

The dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans is considered a low to intermediate grade fibrohistiocytic tumor, characteristic in its nodular cutaneous location and occurring far more commonly in males than in females, in a young to middle-aged adult population. It is found most commonly in the trunk for proximal extremities and can be associated with antecedent trauma in about 15 per cent of cases. Because it usually comes on gradually as a subcutaneous nodule that is relatively painless, patients may not present to a physician for treatment for many years. Histologically, the tumor consists of low-grade spindle cells without evidence of mitotic activity and low-grade histiocytes. The spindle cell pattern is a typically a storiform pattern, similar to the fibrosarcoma and malignant fibrous histiocytoma. The tumor tends to invade into the adjacent subcutaneous fat and skin and requires a very wide surgical resection to avoid a high local recurrence rate. The chance of a pulmonary metastasis, however, is very low, in the neighborhood of one per cent. With a successful wide surgical resection, local radiation is usually not necessary and chemotherapy is never indicated.