

Elastafibroma

The elastafibroma is seen almost exclusively in people older than 55 years of age. It is more common in women than men, and the majority of cases occur in those involved in heavy manual labor or unusual sports requiring extensive use of the upper extremities. It is almost always seen between the scapula and the chest wall inferiorly and is bilateral in about 10 per cent of cases. It is usually located in the lower subscapular area, deep to the trapezioid and latissimus dorsi muscles where it is firmly attached to the chest wall in the area of the seventh and eighth ribs, posteriorly. The gross appearance of the elastafibroma is similar to a desmoid tumor. Microscopically there is an intertwining of swollen eosinophilic collagen fibers and elastic fibers in equal proportion. The elastic fibers have a degenerated, beaded appearance or are fragmented into small globules or droplets that are easily seen with the Verhoeff stain that is specific for elastin fiber. The cross section shows a characteristic serrated edge. The elastafibroma is considered a reactive pseudotumor with an excellent prognosis. It is treated by a marginal surgical resection and rarely recurs. In some cases it can be treated by radiation therapy alone without surgery.