

Intramedullary Lipoma

The intramedullary lipoma is an extremely rare condition. There are approximately 30 cases in the world literature. It is usually located in the central area of the diaphysis of a long bone such as the femur, tibia or fibula. For some reason, a large (30%) percentage of cases of this rare tumor are seen in the os calcis. The lesion is asymptomatic and picked up as an incidental finding. It has the radiographic appearance of fibrous dysplasia of a long bone because of slight fusiform dilatation of the surrounding cortex, which is somewhat thinned, and in the central area there is evidence of degenerative calcification and occasionally even bone formation in the lipoma. However, a T1-weighted MR image will show the high signal features of a lipoma which helps to differentiate this tumor from fibrous dysplasia which has a low signal on a T1-weighted image. The lesions are asymptomatic and do not require surgical treatment. There is no threat to the patient from pathological fracture.