

CASE REPORT

## Giant Synovial Sarcoma of the Hand

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### ABSTRACT

Synovial sarcoma is a rare, malignant soft tissue sarcoma that can remain undetected for an extended period of time. We present the case of a 36-year-old male with an extremely large synovial sarcoma of the hand. The mass was initially indolent before entering a phase of rapid expansion and local destruction.

### INTRODUCTION

Synovial sarcoma is a rare, malignant soft tissue sarcoma that, contrary to its name, does not originate from synovial cells. Synovial sarcoma typically occurs in males and females in the second through fourth decades of life and accounts for 5% to 10% of soft tissue sarcomas [1]. It is more common in the lower extremities, but it can occur around any joint. Patients typically present with a growing, painless mass, although larger masses abutting bones and nerves can cause pain. There can be a delay in diagnosis; one series of 5 patients showed the average duration of symptoms before diagnosis to be 8.2 months, with unplanned

surgical excision in 2 of the patients [2]. Typically, synovial sarcomas are treated with wide surgical excision with possible radiotherapy and chemotherapy. We present a case of an initially indolent synovial sarcoma that transitioned into a rapidly growing mass, leading to an exceptionally large soft tissue burden. The patient had limited access to health care, leading to a delay in diagnosis and treatment, and the sarcoma recurred in the extremity despite an amputation with clear margins.

### CASE REPORT

A 36-year-old male presented with a large left hand mass that had been present for 6 years. The patient was initially seen at an outside emergency department 1 year prior. The mass was centered over the volar, lateral aspect of the hand and was painless. At that time,

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