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Granular cell tumors of soft tissue :A report of five cases

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Introduction
Granular cell tumor（GCT） is a neural tumor characterized by large granular-appearing eosinophilic cells. Malignant GCT is an extremely rare, constituting 1-2% of all granular cell tumors. In 1998, Funburg-Smith et al. proposed six histologic criteria for selection of benign, atypical or malignant. In this study, we classified our five cases according to Fanburg-Smith criteria. We also studied oncological outcome in these patients.
Patients and Methods
Between 2000 and 2009, a total of five cases, who were finally histopathologically diagnosed as GCTs, were treated at our institution. The mean follow-up time was 77 months (32 to 162).
Results
The mean age at diagnosis was 57 years (38 to 73). There were three male and two female. Of five patients, primary tumor sites were the forearm (n=3), the chest wall (n=1), and the thigh (n=1). All cases were treated by wide resection. According to Fanburg-Smith criteria, two cases were classified into benign, one atypical, and the remaining two cases were malignant. At the time of review, two cases with benign GCT developed no recurrence and no metastasis. The patients with atypical GCT developed local recurrence. One patient with malignant GCT developed no local recurrence and no metastasis but died from colon cancer and the other patient with malignant GCT developed local recurrence and metastasis, and died of malignant GCT.
Conclusions
In our study, the clinical outcomes in our patients were related to prediction based on Fanburg-Smith criteria. However, some authors described that this criteria do not define all features of the disease in detail and evaluation of the positive features depends on each pathologist. We suggest that patients with GCT should be followed carefully, even if the patients were diagnosed as benign or atypical GCT histopathologically.

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