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## Rare, benign, angiomatous lesions

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### Background:

Benign, vascular lesions most frequently occur in the skin. However, some entities may involve deeper layers and all kinds of tissues and may develop in a disabling or life-threatening way. Three very rare conditions requiring challenging surgery are presented.

### Patients:

1. Mixed Type Vascular Malformation of the Right Lower Extremity and Pelvis. A 22-year-old female was seen in a poor condition with extensive swelling and bulging deformities of the right lower extremity. There were necrotic, infected ulcers of the foot. When the leg was lowered extensive bleeding would occur and when the leg was elevated pulmonary oedema would occur. The extremity was calculated to contain 6 liters of blood, important coagulation factors were continuously consumed in the lesion. An extended hemipelvectomy including the rectum was performed. At 17 years follow-up the patient had good quality of life and full-time work.
2. Multifocal Intraosseous Epithelioid Hemangioma. A 35-year-old man had an osteolytic lesion of the right distal radius diagnosed as giant cell tumor of bone. A resection arthrodesis was performed. At follow-up one year later an osteolytic lesion was detected in the second metacarpal bone and further surveys including PET-CT disclosed altogether 6 osteolytic lesions in the right upper extremity and right second rib. All lesions were excised or curetted and cemented. Three years later a lesion of the left side of the sacrum was diagnosed and excised. PET-CT proved to be the best imaging tool and is done at regular intervals.
3. Gorham's Disease (Disappearing Bone Disease) of the Thoracic Spine. A 37-year-old man had MRI because of back pain. An extensive osteolytic lesion of the T7 vertebral body was seen. Repeated transpedicular and finally open biopsies yielded considerable bleeding but no abnormal cells. Angiography showed no hyper-vascularity and no vessels to embolize. At this stage there was total absence of T7 and considerable osteolysis of T6 and T8. The diagnosis was clear. The patient had stabilizing surgery with an extendable titanium cage and anterolateral fixation with rods and screws. He is on Alendronat medication and the condition is stable at 2 years follow-up.

### Conclusion:

Benign angiomatous lesions may cause as challenging diagnostic and surgical problems as any sarcoma. The variety of orthopaedic tumor surgery and the need to learn about rare conditions is substantial.

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