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# Angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma: unusual sites and unusual morphology

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Angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma is a soft tissue neoplasm of low malignant potential, typically occurring in the superficial soft tissues of the extremities in children and young adults. Occurrence outside somatic soft tissues is most uncommon. This report describes eight such cases, involving the lung (three cases), mediastinum (one case), vulva (two cases), retroperitoneum (one case) and ovary (one case), with the latter three locations being hitherto unreported sites of occurrence. Patients had a median age of 48 years, and presented with symptoms related to the mass lesion (five cases) or were incidentally found to harbor a tumor (three cases). Besides the typical histological features such as an outer shell of lymphoid tissue, multinodular aggregates of dendritic-like tumor cells, blood-filled spaces and abundant admixed plasma cells, unusual features were found focally in some cases, including clear cells, rhabdomyoblast-like cells, pulmonary edemalike pattern and tumor cell cords lying in a myxoid stroma. Immunoreactivity for the epithelial membrane antigen, desmin, smooth-muscle actin, CD68 and CD99 was found in 100, 63, 43, 100 and 100% of cases, respectively. Molecular studies provided support for the diagnosis in all seven tested cases-EWS gene translocation in six cases (partner gene being CREB1 in three and ATF1 in two in which information was available) and FUS gene translocation in one case. Comparison of the reported cases of extrasomatic angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma with their somatic soft tissue counterparts showed a number of differences: higher mean age, slight male predominance (particularly for bone lesions), larger tumors, higher frequency of systemic symptoms, higher recurrence rate, myxoid change being more common and a much higher frequency of EWS/ATF1 gene fusion.

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**Keywords:** angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma; mediastinal neoplasm; ovarian neoplasm; retroperitoneal neoplasm; soft tissue tumor; vulval neoplasm

Angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma is an uncommon, low-grade malignant soft tissue tumor of uncertain histogenesis. It most commonly occurs in the deep dermis or subcutis of the extremities in children and young adults.<sup>1–3</sup> Only rarely does this tumor occur outside somatic soft tissues, with 12 cases having been reported so far, including the brain, mediastinum, lung, bone and omentum.<sup>4–13</sup> In this report, we describe the clinicopathological and molecular features of eight cases of extrasomatic angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma, and analyze these cases together with the previously reported cases to determine whether there are differences from classical angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma. It is noteworthy that this study reports for the first time the occurrence of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma as a primary tumor in the vulva, ovary and retroperitoneum, broadening the anatomical locations that can be affected by this tumor type.

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# **Materials and Methods**

## **Case Selection**

The eight cases were collected from the consultation files of four of the authors (GC, ALF, TVC and JKCC), and included one pulmonary case we have previously reported.<sup>8</sup> Clinical data were obtained, and available histological sections were retrieved for review.

## **Immunohistochemical Staining**

Immunohistochemical staining was performed using the BOND-MAX automated immunostainer (Vision Biosystems, Leica), with a polymer-based detection system. The antibodies are shown in Table 1. The antigen-retrieval method was on-board heat-induced epitope retrieval at alkaline pH (pH 9.0).

## **Molecular Analysis**

Paraffin sections were available from seven cases for molecular analysis. Dual-colored fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) was performed using *EWS* break-apart probe and/or *FUS* break-apart probe (Vysis, Abbott Molecular, IL, USA), in which splitting of normally fused red and green signals (which sometimes appeared as a single yellow signal because of overlap of the signals) into separate red and green signals indicated the presence of *EWS* or *FUS* gene translocation. The slides were viewed under a Nikon fluorescent microscope using appropriate filters (Nikon, ECLIPSE E600).

Messenger RNA was extracted from sections of paraffin-embedded tumor tissues. Nested reverse transcription-PCR (RT-PCR) was carried out to detect *EWS/ATF1* and *EWS/CREB1* fusion transcripts

 Table 1 Results of immunostaining and molecular studies

according to previously described methods.<sup>14–16</sup> Appropriate positive and negative controls were included. PCR products were electrophoresed on a 2% agarose gel.

# Results

## **Clinical Features**

The eight patients included three men and five women, with age ranging from 22 to 65 years (median and mean: 48 years) (Table 2). The involved sites included the lung (n=3), vulva (n=2), retroperitoneum (n=1), mediastinum (n=1) and ovary (n = 1). Three patients were incidentally discovered to have a tumor, whereas five patients presented with symptoms referable to the anatomical location, such as mass lesion or hemoptysis. One of the latter patients (case 7) also had fever, increased serum C-reactive protein and systemic symptoms. All patients were treated by surgery, without adjuvant radiotherapy or chemotherapy. One patient (case 4) had local tumor recurrence 2 years after incomplete excision of the vulval mass, and remained well 4 years after re-excision. Six other patients with follow-up information had remained well, at followup time of 3 months to 2 years.

## **Pathological Findings**

The tumors ranged in size from 1.5 to 6.0 cm, with a mean of 3.0 cm and a median of 2.5 cm. They were circumscribed, with grayish-yellow solid cut surfaces, sometimes interspersed with hemorrhagic foci.

Histologically, the tumors were surrounded by an incomplete fibrous pseudocapsule. The most

Test	Source		Case number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Immunostaining <sup>a</sup>									
Cytokeratin	MNF-116, Dako	_	_	_	_	+	+	_	_
Epithelial membrane antigen (EMA)	GP1.4, Lab Vision	+++	++	++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++
Desmin	D33, Dako	+	+	_	+	_	+++	_	++
Smooth-muscle actin (SMA)	1A4, Zymed/Invitrogen	_	+	_	+++	NA	_	+	_
CD68	PGM1, Dako	++	++	++	+++	++	++	++	+
CD99	O13, Signet	NA	+	NA	++	NA	++	+++	+++
CD21	NCL-CD21-2G9, Novocastra/Leica	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_
Ki67	SP6, Lab Vision	NA	3%	NA	3%	NA	4%	3%	2%
Molecular studies									
FISH for EWS	Break-apart probe, Vysis	+	+	NA	+	+	+	_	+
FISH for <i>FUS</i>	Break-apart probe, Vysis	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	+	NA
RT-PCR for EWS-CREB1	In-house primers	_	+	NA	+	NA	+	NA	_
RT-PCR for EWS-ATF1	In-house primers	+	_	NA	_	NA	_	NA	+

NA = not available.

<sup>a</sup>Quantification of immunostaining: -=0% tumor cells positive; +=1-25% tumor cells positive; ++=26-50% tumor cells positive; ++=>50% tumor cells positive.

Source	Sex/age (years)	Tumor location and maximum dimension	Presentation	Outcome	Molecular genetics	
Current series, Case 1 <sup>8</sup>	M/46	Lung (right lower lobe), 2.5 cm	Chest tightness for 1 month	Excision. Well at 2 years	EWS/ATF1	
Current series, Case 2	F/60	Lung (left upper lobe), 1.5 cm	Hemoptysis	Excision. Well at 17 months	EWS/CREB1	
Current series, Case 3	M/43	Lung, 2.4 cm	Incidental discovery of coin lesion on chest X-ray	NA	NA	
Current series, Case 4	F/44	Vulva (left), 2 cm	Had history of endometrial and ovarian carcinoma, treated by surgery in the year 2001. At that time, a mobile, slow-growing vulval mass (1 cm) was already observed. Vulval mass excised in 2004 with positive margins, and diagnosed as 'schwannoma'	Local recurrence after 2 years in 2006, with a size of 2.8 cm. Review diagnosis of original lesion was angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma, and wide excision was performed. Well 6.5 years after first excision	EWS/CREB1	
Current series, Case 5	F/65	Vulva, 2.5 cm	Vulval mass, clinically believed to be Bartholin cyst. Biopsy performed	Biopsy followed by wide re-excision. Well at 6 months	EWS rearranged	
Current series, Case 6	F/22	Ovary (right), 6 cm	Incidental ultrasound finding of right ovarian mass, which was excised 2 years later	Well at 8 months	EWS/CREB1	
Current series, Case 7	F/49	Retroperitoneum (between right adrenal and liver), 5 cm	Abdominal pain and systemic inflammatory symptoms. Retroperitoneal mass found on imaging studies	Systemic symptoms resolved with excision of tumor. Well at 9 months	FUS rearranged	
Current series, Case 8	M/52	Mediastinum (anterior), 2 cm	Had history of nasopharyngeal carcinoma, treated by radiotherapy in 1997. Follow-up surveillance CT scan in 2010 revealed a mediastinal mass	Well at 3 months	EWS/ATF1	
Davies <i>et al</i> <sup>12</sup>	F/24	Mediastinum, 3.5 cm	Fever, malaise, night sweat, and weight loss. MRI showed mediastinal mass adjacent to the right ventricle and pulmonary outflow tract	Rapid resolution of constitutional symptoms after tumor excision. Well at 14 months	NA	
Asakura <i>et al</i> <sup>5</sup>	M/39	Mediastinum (adjacent to the left main pulmonary artery and the descending aorta), 4.5 cm	Incidental discovery of abnormality in chest X-ray on routine medical examination	Well 5 years after surgery and adjuvant radiotherapy	NA	
Tanas <i>et al</i> <sup>10</sup> , Case 4	F/29	Omentum	NA	NA	FUS not rearranged; EWS FISH study unsatis- factory	
Dunham <i>et al</i> <sup>4</sup>	M/25	Brain (left occipital), 5.3 cm	Visual disturbance and headache	Total excision; no follow-up information	EWS/ATF1	
Ochalski <i>et al</i> <sup>11</sup>	M/35	Brain, 0.5 cm (accompanied by a 4-cm hematoma)	Worsening headache, due to intracerebral hemorrhage from a tumor located in the left temporal lobe	Tumor debulking and evacuation of hematoma. Over the following years, patient had multiple intracranial recurrences, necessitating 10 operations. Died of progressive hydrocephalus from repeated hemorrhage at 49 months	EWS rearranged	

 Table 2
 Summary of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma occurring outside somatic soft tissues (current series and cases reported in literature)

#### Unusual angiomatoid fibrous histiocytomas

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#### Table 2 Continued

Source	Sex/age (years)	Tumor location and maximum dimension	Presentation	Outcome	Molecular genetics
Spencer <i>et al</i> <sup>9a</sup>	F/7	Bone (right mandible)	One patient had lymphadenopathy, fever, nausea and vomiting and weight loss	NA	NA
Spencer <i>et al</i> <sup>9a</sup>	M/8	Bone (right proximal humerus)		Treated by curettage. Recurrence at 3 and 9 months, necessitating proximal humeral resection	NA
Spencer <i>et al</i> <sup>9a</sup>	M/47	Bone (right proximal ulnar shaft)		Treated by curettage. Recurrence at 7 years	NA
Somers <i>et al</i> <sup>7</sup>	F/7	Bone (left proximal humeral diaphysis, with significant extraosseous component), 3.4 cm	Night fever, weight loss, fatigue and anorexia. Recent pain and swelling of the left upper arm	Chemotherapy (with shrinkage of tumor), followed by resection. Well at 7 months after initial biopsy	EWS/ATF1
Mangham <i>et al</i> <sup>6</sup>	M/11	Bone (right proximal humerus), 5 cm	Two years' history of nausea, vomiting, fever, weight loss and growth retardation. A right humeral expansile lytic lesion detected on X-ray taken after a blow to the right upper arm	Resection of proximal humerus. Constitutional symptoms resolved after surgery. Well at 16 months	EWS/ATF1
Petrey <i>et al</i> <sup>13</sup>	M/5	Bone (left posterior ischium, with a significant extraosseous component)	Left hip pain for 1 year, and impaired ability of bearing weight	Treated by curettage. Local recurrence at 1 year, presenting with hip pain and difficulties in ambulation	EWS rearranged

<sup>a</sup>Reported in the abstract form, and thus some details are not available.

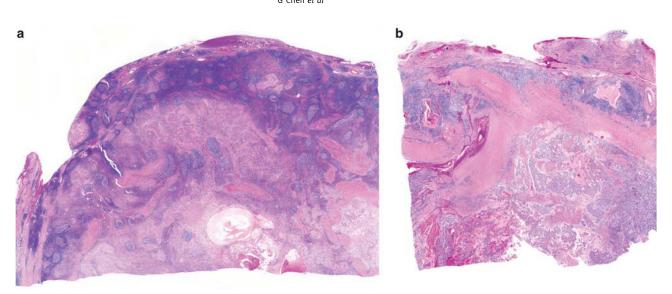
striking feature was the presence of a peritumoral circumferential or incomplete band of lymphoid tissue, except case 5, which was incompletely removed in piecemeal (Figure 1). The lymphoid band comprised reactive lymphoid follicles separated by abundant small lymphocytes and plasma cells. The central portion of the tumor featured multiple discrete or coalescent pale-staining nodules that sometimes exhibited a plexiform or serpentine pattern, separated by a sclerotic stroma richly infiltrated by plasma cells (Figure 2). Sclerosis was particularly prominent in three cases (cases 6, 7 and 8) (Figure 1a).

Tumor cells were predominantly short spindly (three cases), predominantly oval (two cases) or mixed spindly and oval (three cases). The cells had oval or elongated nuclei, typically with fine chromatin. Nuclear grooving was prominent in two cases. Scattered cells with large hyperchromatic nuclei were commonly present, whereas diffuse moderate nuclear atypia was present in two cases (cases 5 and 6) (Figure 3). In case 6, the presence of many cells with bizarre and irregularly folded nuclei, coupled with growth in the form of islands separated by a desmoplastic-like stroma, resulted in an appearance highly reminiscent of poorly differentiated carcinoma (Figures 2c and 3d). However, mitotic figures were rare.

Tumor cells had indistinct cell borders and a moderate amount of eosinophilic cytoplasm. They formed sheets and nodular aggregates, with a whorled pattern being present at least focally (Figure 4). A storiform pattern was observed in three cases (cases 4, 5 and 7) (Figure 4b). Many cells showed clear cytoplasm in two cases (cases 3 and 8) (Figure 3c), and some cells showed eccentrically placed nuclei and abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm, resembling rhabdomyoblasts, in one case (case 5) (Figure 5a). Groups of cells with scanty cytoplasm (small cells), resembling Ewing's sarcoma, were present in two cases (cases 2 and 3) (Figure 5b). Deposition of myxoid material, edema fluid and/or proteinaceous fluid was present in all cases, at least as a focal phenomenon, and myxoid stroma was prominent in three cases (cases 4, 6 and 7). A resulting reticulated, microcystic or macrocystic growth pattern was observed in all except two cases (cases 3 and 5) (Figure 6). In two cases (cases 6 and 7), a pulmonary edema-like pattern was present in some foci (Figure 6c). In case 7, growth of tumor cells in cords within a myxoid stroma was present in areas (Figure 6d). In case 2, the presence of irregular clefts resulted in a hemangioendothelioma-like appearance focally (Figure 6e). In five cases, there were foci of hemorrhage, sometimes accompanied by formation of blood lakes

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**Figure 1** Scanning magnification view of tumors. (a) Retroperitoneal tumor of case 7, showing a prominent rim of lymphoid tissue rich in lymphoid follicles in the periphery. (b) Ovarian tumor of case 6, showing a fibrous pseudocapsule with lymphoid component on top. Anastomosing islands of tumor are seen in the lower field.

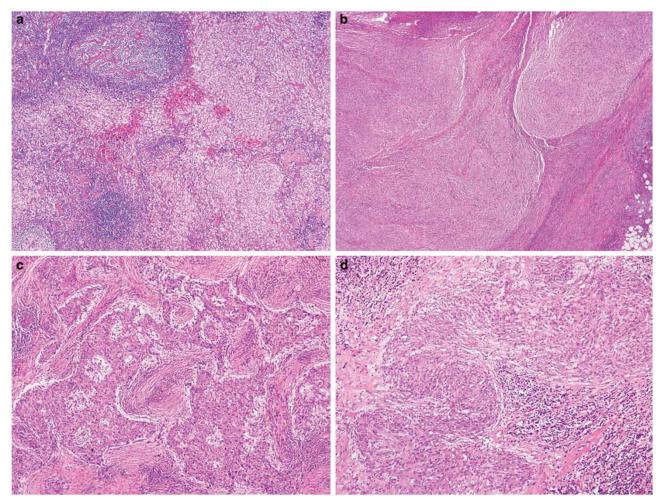


Figure 2 Architectural features. (a) Mediastinal tumor (case 8) comprising coalescent pale-staining nodules with interspersed lymphoid follicles and plasma cells. (b) Vulval tumor (case 4) showing closely packed, large, light-staining tumor nodules. (c) Ovarian tumor (case 6) with anastomosing plexiform islands of tumor separated by a sclerotic stroma infiltrated by chronic inflammatory cells. (d) Retroperitoneal tumor (case 7) with some tumor nodules assuming a serpentine configuration. The intervening stroma is infiltrated by chronic inflammatory cells.

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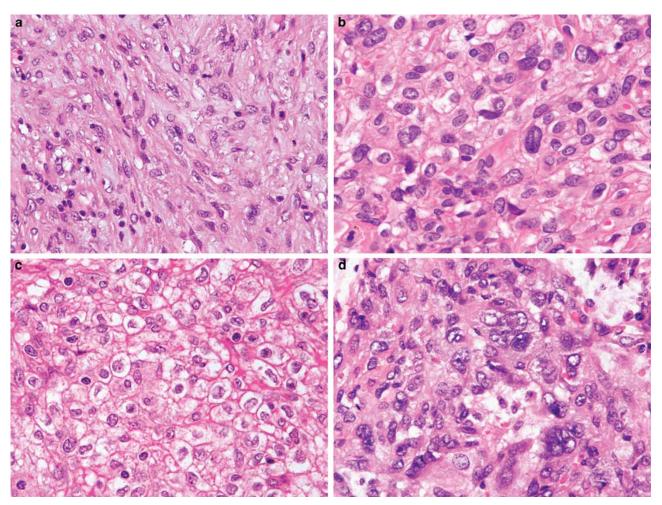


Figure 3 Cytological features. (a) Spindly tumor cells with uniform pale-staining nuclei. There are admixed plasma cells (case 4). (b) Oval tumor cells with fine nuclear chromatin. There are occasional cells with larger and more hyperchromatic nuclei (case 2). (c) Oval tumor cells with a clear cytoplasm (case 3). (d) The tumor cell nuclei are bizarre and pleomorphic. Coupled with the worrisome growth pattern in the form of anastomosing islands (see Figure 2c), the tumor may be mistaken for a poorly differentiated carcinoma (case 6).

and often accompanied by hemosiderin deposition (Figure 6f).

## Immunohistochemical Findings

On immunostaining, cytokeratin was negative except in two cases, which featured small numbers of isolated positive tumor cells with dendritic cell processes (Table 1). Epithelial membrane antigen, CD68 and CD99 were expressed in all tested cases (100%), desmin in five of eight cases (62.5%) and smooth muscle actin in three of seven cases (42.9%) (Figure 7). Focal CD21 expression was present in one case (Figure 7d). The Ki67 proliferative index was low, from 2 to 4%.

#### **Molecular Studies**

On FISH analysis of seven cases, tumor cells showed break-apart signals of the *EWS* gene in six cases and of the *FUS* gene in one case (Table 1; Figure 7e). Break-apart signals were not detected in admixed plasma cells. RT-PCR analysis of five of the *EWS*-rearranged cases showed *EWS*-*CREB1* gene fusion in three cases and *EWS*-*ATF1* fusion in two cases.

## Discussion

The eight tumors included in this series, all occurring in sites outside somatic soft tissues, exhibit morphological, immunophenotypic and molecular features characteristic of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma. This series also documents previously unrecognized sites of involvement by angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma, including the vulva, ovary and retroperitoneum. Although the vulva may arguably be considered to represent somatic soft tissue, it can also be considered a distinct anatomical structure because of its origin

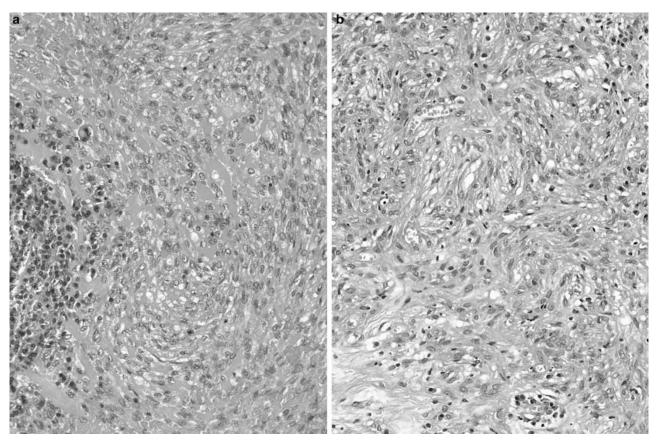


Figure 4 Cellular growth pattern. (a) Spindly cells forming circular whorls (case 8). (b) Storiform pattern (case 7).

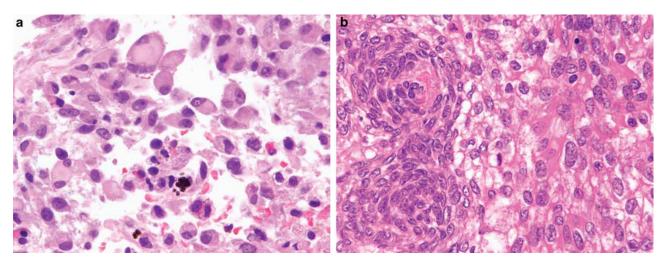


Figure 5 Unusual cytological features. (a) Focally, tumor cells have eccentrically placed nuclei and abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm, reminiscent of rhabdomyoblasts (case 5). (b) Focal presence of small cells—tumor cells in the left field show a high nuclear-cytoplasmic ratio and slightly smaller nuclei compared with the rest of the tumor (case 3).

from the genital tubercle and folds, presence of erectile tissue in the labia minora, presence of specialized hormone-responsive stromal cells and being the host to some fairly site-specific mesenchymal tumors (such as angiomyofibroblastoma and aggressive angiomyxoma).<sup>17</sup> The best histological clue to the diagnosis of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma is the peritumoral cuff of lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate,<sup>2,3,18</sup> a feature rarely seen in other tumors except gastrointestinal schwannoma.<sup>19</sup> Other distinctive morphological features are multinodular tumor growth, dendritic

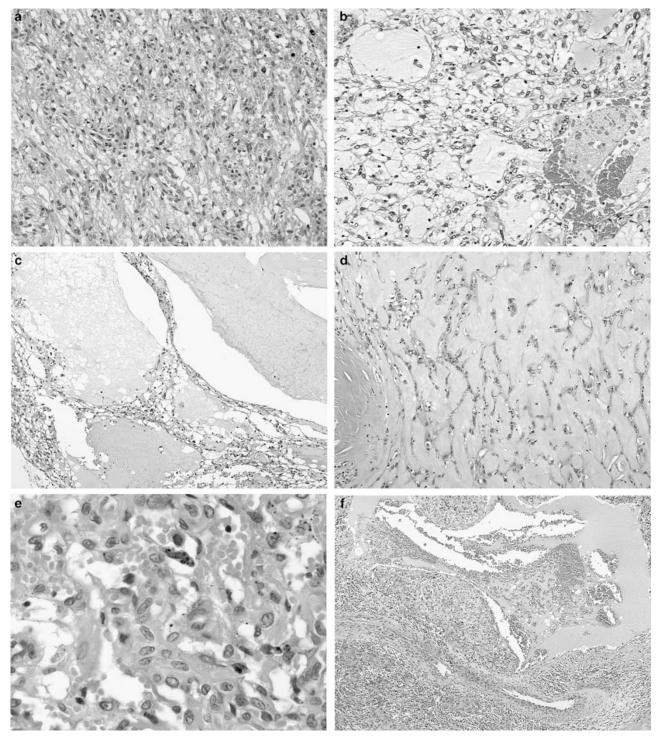
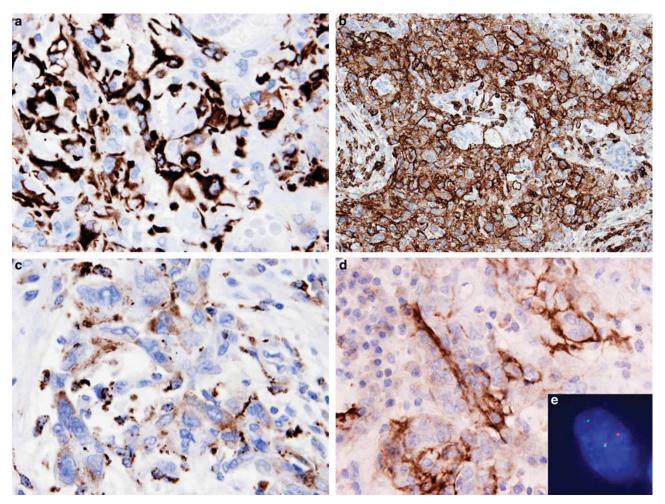


Figure 6 Stromal changes. (a) Spindly tumor cells are loosely disposed in an edematous-myxoid stroma. Interstitial hemorrhage is also evident (case 2). (b) Microcystic appearance due to interstitial accumulation of mucinous material (case 6). (c) Formation of macrocystic spaces filled with proteinaceous fluid creates a pulmonary edema-like pattern (case 7). (d) Cords of tumor cells lie in a myxoid stroma, mimicking the architectural features of myxoid chondrosarcoma (case 7). (e) Irregular narrow spaces, sometimes containing red cells, are present among tumor cells, resulting in a hemangioendothelioma-like appearance (case 2). (f) A blood-filled cavity is present (case 6).

cell tumor-like morphology (tumor cells with eosinophilic cytoplasm and indistinct cell borders) and abundant admixed plasma cells.<sup>1–3,18</sup> However, some cases in this series exhibit previously unreported or

unusual morphological features focally, increasing the difficulties in the diagnosis of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma in extrasomatic locations. These include clear cells, rhabdomyoblast-like cells,



**Figure 7** (a) Immunostaining shows desmin-positive tumor cells with dendritic cell processes (case 6). (b) Immunostaining for epithelial membrane antigen is positive. Admixed plasma cells are also highlighted (case 6). (c) Some tumor cells show cytoplasmic immunostaining for CD68 (case 6). (d) Rare tumor cells show a dendritic pattern of CD21 immunostaining (case 7). (e) Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization using break-apart probes for the *EWS* gene shows one red, one green and one combined signal in the nucleus. The presence of separate red and green signals indicates the presence of translocation involving the *EWS* gene.

pulmonary edema-like pattern and tumor cells forming cords in a myxoid stroma.

As angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma lacks a specific immunophenotype, immunohistochemical studies are supportive rather than diagnostic. Positivity rates for the various immunohistochemical markers in the cases of this series are broadly similar to those reported in large series.<sup>3,18</sup> Although the presence of clusters of desmin-positive cells with a dendritic morphology is characteristic, this is found in only half of the cases and can be seen in other tumor types such as tenosynovial giant cell tumor.<sup>18,20,21</sup> There is variable immunoreactivity for the epithelial membrane antigen, CD68, smoothmuscle actin, calponin and CD99.<sup>3,10,18,22</sup> One case in this series shows an unexpected focal staining for CD21, which taken together with the dendritic cell tumor-like morphology and prominent lymphoid stroma, may lead to an erroneous diagnosis of follicular dendritic cell sarcoma.

On the other hand, molecular studies are most helpful for confirming a diagnosis of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma, especially as these ancillary tools are applicable to routine paraffin-embedded tissues.<sup>4,23</sup> Distinctive chromosomal translocations are found in practically all cases of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma, with EWS/CREB1 fusion being the most common (>75% of cases), others being EWS/ATF1 and FUS/ATF1 (Table 3).4,24-31 The only other types of neoplasms known to show EWS/ATF1 or EWS/CREB1 gene fusion are clear cell sarcoma of soft tissues and osteoclast-rich tumor of the gastrointestinal tract with features resembling clear cell sarcoma of soft parts, and more recently hyalinizing clear cell carcinoma of the salivary gland (EWS-ATF1).<sup>15,32,33</sup> However, these tumor types are morphologically very different. Molecular studies are most invaluable for supporting a diagnosis of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma occurring in unusual sites or showing unusual morphological features.

	Angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma occurring outside somatic soft tissues	Conventional angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma of somatic soft tissues		
Age	Median age 35 years, with only 26% under the age of 20 years. The subgroup occurring in the bone occurs predominantly in the first two decades, with a median age of 7.5 years	Reported median age ranges from 12 to 18 years, with 80% under the age of 20 years		
Sex	No significant sex predilection (male to female 10:9). The subgroup occurring in the bone shows male predilection (male-to-female ratio 4:2)	Slight female or male predominance, varying with different reports		
Systemic inflammatory symptoms	5/18 (28%)	10–15%		
Tumor size	Median size 2.9 cm; mean size 3.3 cm	Median size reported to be 2–2.8 cm		
Clinical outcome	Recurrence rate 5/15 (33%)	On mean follow-up of 63 months, local recurrence in 11%, local recurrence and metastasis in 1%, local metastasis in 3% and distant metastasis in 1%		
Histological findings	Clear cells in 25% of cases. Prominent myxoid change in 38%	No clear cells. Prominent myxoid change in 9–13%		
Molecular genetics	<i>EWS</i> translocation in 92% (11/12), with 38% (3/8) being <i>EWS-CREB1</i> and 63% (5/8) <i>EWS-ATF1</i> . <i>FUS</i> translocation in 1/12 (8%)	<i>EWS</i> translocation in 93%, with 81% being <i>EWS-CREB1</i> and 19% <i>EWS-ATF1</i> . <i>FUS</i> translocation in 7%		

 Table 3 Comparison of reported cases of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma occurring outside somatic soft tissues with those involving somatic soft tissues

Comparison of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytomas occurring outside somatic soft tissues with their somatic soft tissue counterparts reveals a number of differences (summarized in Table 3), with the caveat that the number of cases in the former category is small. <sup>1,2,18,34</sup> First, the median age is higher, by  $\sim 20$ years. Second, although there is no significant sex predilection in either, the subgroup occurring in bone shows male predilection (male-to-female ratio: 4:2). Third, systemic inflammatory symptoms occur more frequently (30 vs 10–15%). Fourth, the tumors tend to be slightly larger, by  $\sim 0.5$  cm. Fifth, the local recurrence rate is higher despite a shorter follow-up duration (>33 vs <15%). This may be related to the strategic location (such as the bone and brain), whereby complete excision is more difficult to achieve. Sixth, myxoid stromal change is more common (seen in all cases, and prominent in 38% of cases), and clear cells can occur in some cases. Seventh, there are differences in the pattern of EWS gene translocation—with EWS/ATF1 fusion being much more common (63 vs 19%).

In conclusion, angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma can occur in diverse anatomical locations, and additional new sites of involvement will almost certainly be recognized in future. We speculate that angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma may be an underrecognized tumor outside somatic soft tissues, and *bona fide* cases have probably been subsumed among cases diagnosed as inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor, follicular dendritic cell sarcoma, poorly differentiated carcinoma or meningioma. Increased awareness of the morphological characteristics of angiomatoid fibrous histiocytoma (in particular, the peritumoral lymphoid cuff) and its potential occurrence in unusual sites will aid in its recognition.

# **Disclosure/conflict of interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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