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Kimura's disease in a Caucasian female: case report and review of the literature

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Introduction: Kimura's disease is a rare, male-predominant, benign, chronic inflammatory disorder of unknown etiology. It is characterized by painless subcutaneous tumor-like lesions, mostly in the head and neck area. Regional lymphadenopathy, peripheral eosinophilia and elevated serum IgE levels can be associated with Kimura's disease. As Kimura's disease is almost endemic to Asia, case reports in other continents are very uncommon.

Case Presentation: A 61 year old Caucasian female patient was presented with a painless expansion in her right occipital region, as well as recurrent cervicalgia and neuropathic pruritus in both upper extremities. Magnetic resonance imaging showed two separate intermusculous lesions, 2.8 and 2 centimeters in diameter. Immunohistological analysis after incision biopsy showed proliferation of small blood vessels and inflammatory infiltrate, consisting of eosinophilic granulocytes and lymphocytic aggregates with germinal centers. After exclusion of malignancy and any other rheumatic disorder the patient was diagnosed with Kimura's disease. Without any specific treatment the patient showed no further progression of the lesions in a one year follow up. **Discussion:** Due to its clinical presentation, Kimura's disease can easily be mistaken for a malignant process or a variant of rheumatic disorder. Further, a differentiation to angiolymphoid hyperplasia with eosinophilia can only be performed immunohistologically. Even though Kimura's disease is a very rare disorder outside of Asia, it should be considered as a differential diagnosis for subcutaneous tumor-like lesions, especially in the head and neck regions.