The Great Mimic: An Incidental Superficial Angiomyxoma Masking as a Benign Vaginal Cyst

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BACKGROUND

Superficial angiomyxoma is a rare, benign mesenchymal tumour. While typically found in the dermis, vaginal presentations are exceptionally rare and frequently misdiagnosed preoperatively due to clinical mimicry of common benign lesions.

AIMS

To present an incidentally identified vaginal superficial angiomyxoma and highlight the importance of histopathological diagnosis for lesions appearing as routine vaginal cysts.

CASE

A 61-year-old P4 patient presented for investigation of postmenopausal bleeding and thickened endometrium. During hysteroscopy and curettage, a soft 15mm lesion was incidentally identified on the anterior vaginal wall. Under the clinical impression of a benign vaginal cyst, the lesion was excised using diathermy with primary haemostasis achieved; the procedure was uncomplicated.

RESULTS

Histopathology revealed a polypoid fragment of paucicellular, loose, and oedematous myxoid fibrous stroma. The lesion was lined by benign stratified squamous epithelium without cytopathic change, confirming a superficial angiomyxoma without aggressive features. Endometrial pathology confirmed benign polyps with cystic atrophy.

DISCUSSION

Vaginal superficial angiomyxomas are "great mimics," appearing clinically identical to Gartner duct cysts or fibroepithelial polyps. Unlike the locally infiltrative aggressive angiomyxoma, the superficial variant is typically well-circumscribed but carries a recognised risk of local recurrence if excision is incomplete. This case demonstrates that "simple" vaginal cysts encountered during routine gynaecological surgery require formal histological evaluation. Accurate diagnosis is essential to exclude more aggressive mesenchymal tumours and guide appropriate long-term clinical follow-up in the regional setting.

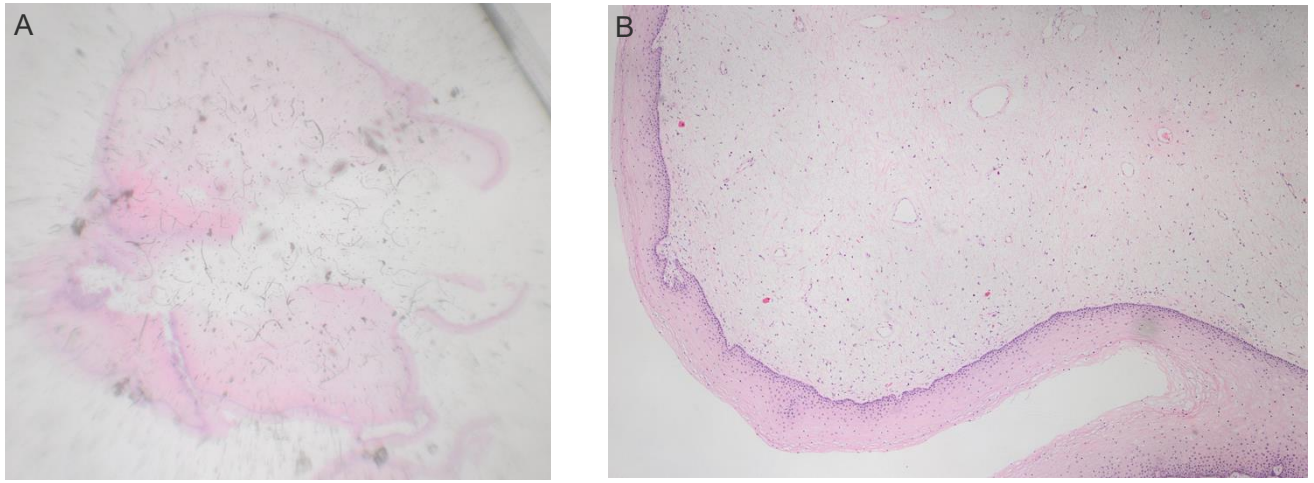

Figure 1. Histopathological features of the excised vaginal lesion. (A) Low-power H&E demonstrating a polypoid lesion lined by benign stratified squamous epithelium. (B) Medium-power H&E showing hypocellular oedematous/myxoid stroma with bland spindle cells and simple capillaries, consistent with superficial angiomyxoma.

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