Lipoma arborescens is rare and usually found in the knee. We report two cases in the bicipital bursa of the elbow that showed characteristic findings on magnetic resonance imaging with contrast enhancement.

Keywords Lipoma arborescens · Bicipital bursa · Elbow · Synovium · Magnetic resonance (MRI) · Radiograph · CT

Case reports

Case 1

A 77-year-old woman presented with a slowly growing mass in her right antecubital fossa that had been present for 9 months. Radiographs showed minimal osteoarthritis in the elbow joint and a soft tissue mass anteriorly (Fig. 1A). Ultrasound (US) showed a multilobulated fronded mass, partly surrounded by fluid, anterior to the elbow joint, extending distally (Fig. 1B). Computed tomography (CT) demonstrated a multilobulated mass extending both anterior and posterior to the radius, of heterogeneous signal with fatty areas interrupted by bands and irregular-shaped foci of non-fatty tissue, much of which was of high signal intensity on fat-suppressed T2-weighted images. Most of the non-fatty material enhanced af-
Fig. 1A–F  Case 1. A Lateral radiograph shows a mass (arrowheads) in the right antecubital fossa. The fatty nature of the mass is not evident on the radiograph. B Longitudinal sonogram shows a fronded mass (arrowheads) with fluid (arrow) outlining it anteriorly. C Axial CT scan at the superior margin of the bicipital tuberosity of radius shows a partly fatty mass (arrowheads) in the antecubital fossa with a smaller component posteriorly. D Longitudinal (parasagittal) T1-weighted MRI scan (TR/TE=646/20 ms) shows a fatty fronded mass (arrowheads) outlined by fluid (arrow) lying anterior to the proximal radius. E Axial intermediate-weighted MRI scan (TR/TE effective=3000/18) with fat suppression at a similar level to C shows the mass (arrowheads) with mixed fatty and non-fatty areas. The mass is outlined by bright fluid (long arrow) anterolaterally and has a tail extending posteromedially adjacent to the biceps tendon (short arrow). F Axial T1-weighted MRI scan (TR/TE=1254/20) at the same level as E with fat suppression after intravenous gadolinium shows partly fatty, partly enhancing mass (arrowheads) with non-enhancing fluid (long arrow) anterolaterally and a tail next to the biceps tendon (short arrow).