

Suprapatellar complete plica and lipoma arborescens: an unusual association

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A 25-year-old man presented with a slowly growing painless swelling in the anterior–superior knee area. The patient had pain on overuse. Physical examination revealed soft tissue swelling with boundaries in the suprapatellar region. Magnetic resonance imaging showed an effusion in the suprapatellar recess, with a suprapatellar plica on sagittal images (**Figure 1a**). In addition, villous structures composed of fat tissue were observed in the suprapatellar recess (**Figure 1a** and **b**). On post-contrast images, there was contrast enhancement in the suprapatellar synovium, compatible with lipoma arborescens.

Lipoma arborescens is a rare benign lesion of the synovium, first described in detail by Arzimanoglu (1957). The aetiology and pathogenesis of this lesion is unknown, although degenerative and inflammatory arthritis could be associated with its aetiology. In this patient, lipoma arborescens might be associated with suprapatellar bursal inflammation.

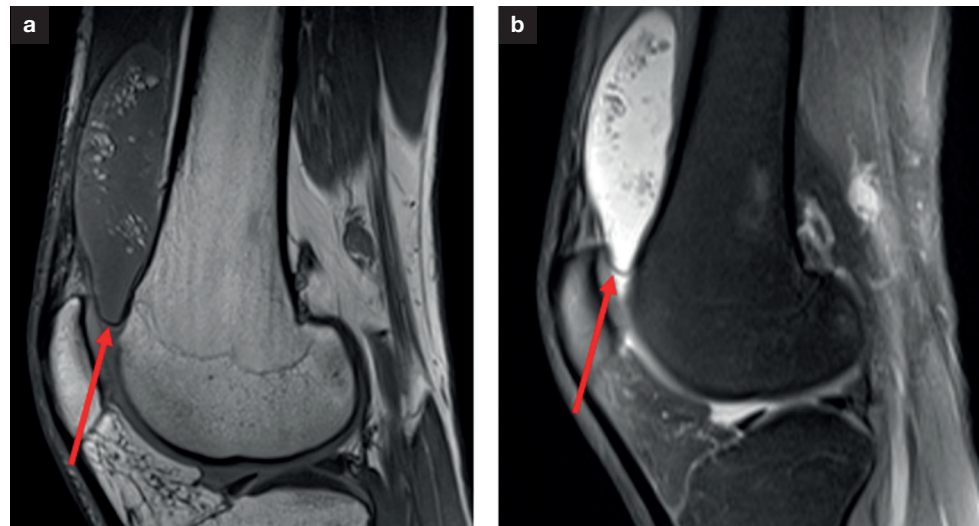


Figure 1. a. Sagittal T1 weighted magnetic resonance imaging scan reveals villous structures composed of fat tissue in the suprapatellar recess. b. Sagittal T2 weighted magnetic resonance imaging shows a suprapatellar complete plica (arrows).

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Reference

Arzimanoglu A. Bilateral arborescent lipoma of the knee. *J Bone Joint Surg.* 1957;39(4):976–979. <https://doi.org/10.2106/00004623-195739040-00021>