A mass in the ischiorectal fossa

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Introduction
Masses in the ischiorectal fossa represent a heterogeneous group of clinical entities. There is a large diversity of tumors found within this anatomic space. We present a case of large lipoma of the ischiorectal fossa.

Case presentation
A 48-year old woman without significant past medical history presented with a tumefaction of the right buttock. The mass was noticed by her husband, and four months later she developed a local discomfort. On physical examination, we found a mass that descended towards the right buttock during muscles contraction. On rectal examination it was difficult to feel the mass through the rectal wall.

An ultrasound, a CT-scan and an MRI were performed and identified a large lipomatous mass (Panel A and B, arrow).

The case was discussed in our MDT and a biopsy of the mass performed. The latter was positive for a lipoma with no signs of malignancy.

The surgical excision was then performed, under general anesthesia, by a trans-gluteal approach (Panel C). The mass was enucleated and its vascular peduncle ligated (Panel D and E). Final pathological diagnosis was for a benign lipoma.

Conclusion
Tumors of the ischiorectal fossa must undergo a complete radiological assessment by MRI. These rare cases should be discussed during MDT. Surgical excision remains the gold standard procedure.

References