

DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

## GLOMUS TUMORS: HOW TO PREVENT RECURRENCE.

*Asma Toumi<sup>(1)</sup> - N Mahdhi<sup>(1)</sup> - M Chaieb<sup>(1)</sup> - I Ernez<sup>(1)</sup> - Y Haj Hassine<sup>(1)</sup> - A Abid<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Sahloul Hospital, Plastic, Reconstructive And Aesthetic Surgery, Sousse, Tunisia<sup>(1)</sup>*

**Introduction:** Glomus tumors are rare benign neoplasms developing from the neuromyoarterial glomus, located in subcutaneous tissue. The preferential localization is the subungual region. Delayed diagnosis is common since this tumor is relatively ignored by practitioners, and patients are often referred to psychiatry.

**Objective:** The purpose of the study was to determine the epidemiological, clinical and therapeutic features of glomus tumors located in the hand.

**Materials and Methods:** We conducted a retrospective study that enrolled 12 patients over a period of 17 years [2000-2017] operated for glomus tumors of the hand in the department of plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery of Sahloul hospital, Sousse.

**Results:** The mean age at diagnosis was 46 years with a female predominance (10 women and 2 men). The diagnosis delay average was five years. The predominant symptom was a throbbing pain. Hypersensitivity to cold was present in 5 cases. The Love test was present in 10 cases. The tumor was digital in 11 cases (7 subungueal, 4 latero pulpar) and extra digital (dorsal side of the hand) in one case. A magnetic resonance imaging complement was performed in 4 cases in which the symptomatology was not univocal, which allowed to confirm the diagnosis and locate the tumor. An excisional biopsy was performed in all cases. Histological examination confirmed the diagnosis of glomus tumor. After surgery, the pain had completely disappeared in all cases. After an average follow-up of 3 years, no recurrence was noted.

**Conclusions:** The long delay in diagnosis of glomus tumors can be explained by the rarity of the pathology and the lack of information. Surgical excision of the tumor is the only effective treatment. Recurrences are generally due to incomplete excision. Therefore, patients should be operated without limb exsanguination and under surgical magnification loupes in order to insure complete removal of the tumor.