

# GIANT CELL LESIONS OF BONE

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A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, white, and light blue) extending from the right side of the slide.

# What is a Giant Cell?

- A giant cell is a cell that is larger in dimension than the cells routinely encountered in histology
- A giant cell (multinucleate giant cell) is a mass formed by the union of several distinct cells (usually histiocytes)
- They are usually of monocyte-macrophage lineage
- In chronic inflammation, when macrophage fail to deal with particles that has to be removed; fuse and form multinucleate giant cells
- The size of giant cells vary greatly but is usually between 40 $\mu$ m and 120 $\mu$ m.

<b>REACTIVE</b>	<b>BENIGN</b>	<b>MALIGNANT</b>
Brown tumor of Hyperparathyroidism	Giant cell tumor	Osteosarcoma-giant cell rich
Giant cell reparative granuloma	Aneurysmal bone cyst	Chondrosarcoma-dedifferentiated
Pseudomalignant myositis ossificans	Chondroblastoma	
	Chondromyxoid fibroma	
	Non ossifying fibroma	
	Langerhans cell histiocytosis	



# REACTIVE GIANT CELL LESIONS

# GIANT CELL REPARATIVE GRANULOMA

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- A reactive intraosseous proliferation characterized by aggregates of giant cell in a fibrovascular stroma
- Giant cell lesion primarily of jaw, also other craniofacial bones and short tubular bones of hands and feet
- May be response to injury

Radiograph-  
Well defined,  
multilocular,  
Radiolucent  
image causing  
second left molar  
tooth resorption



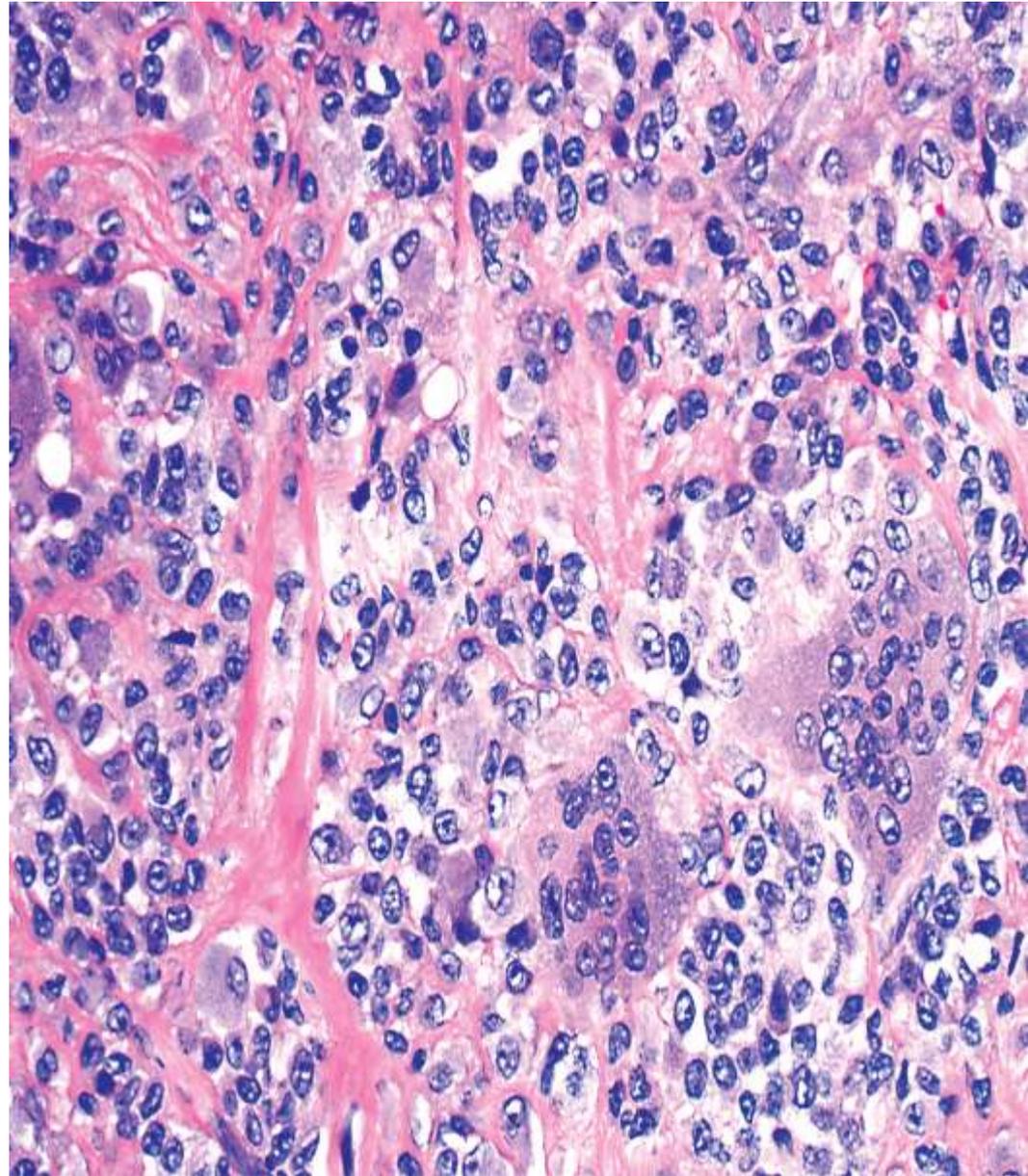
Gross-  
Unencapsula  
ted, brittle,  
brown  
purple,  
granulation  
tissue mass



Large, red brown lesion, friable, gritty

## Microscopy-

Fibrillar connective tissue stroma with small oval and spindle mononuclear cells mixed with uneven clusters of multinuclear (5 - 40) giant cells  
Small capillaries, hemorrhage,  
No pleomorphism, no / rare mitotic figures



- D/Ds
- ✓ Brown tumor
- ✓ GCT
- ✓ ABC
- ✓ Non ossifying fibroma
- ✓ Ossifying fibroma

# PSEUDOMALIGNANT MYOSITIS OSSIFICANS

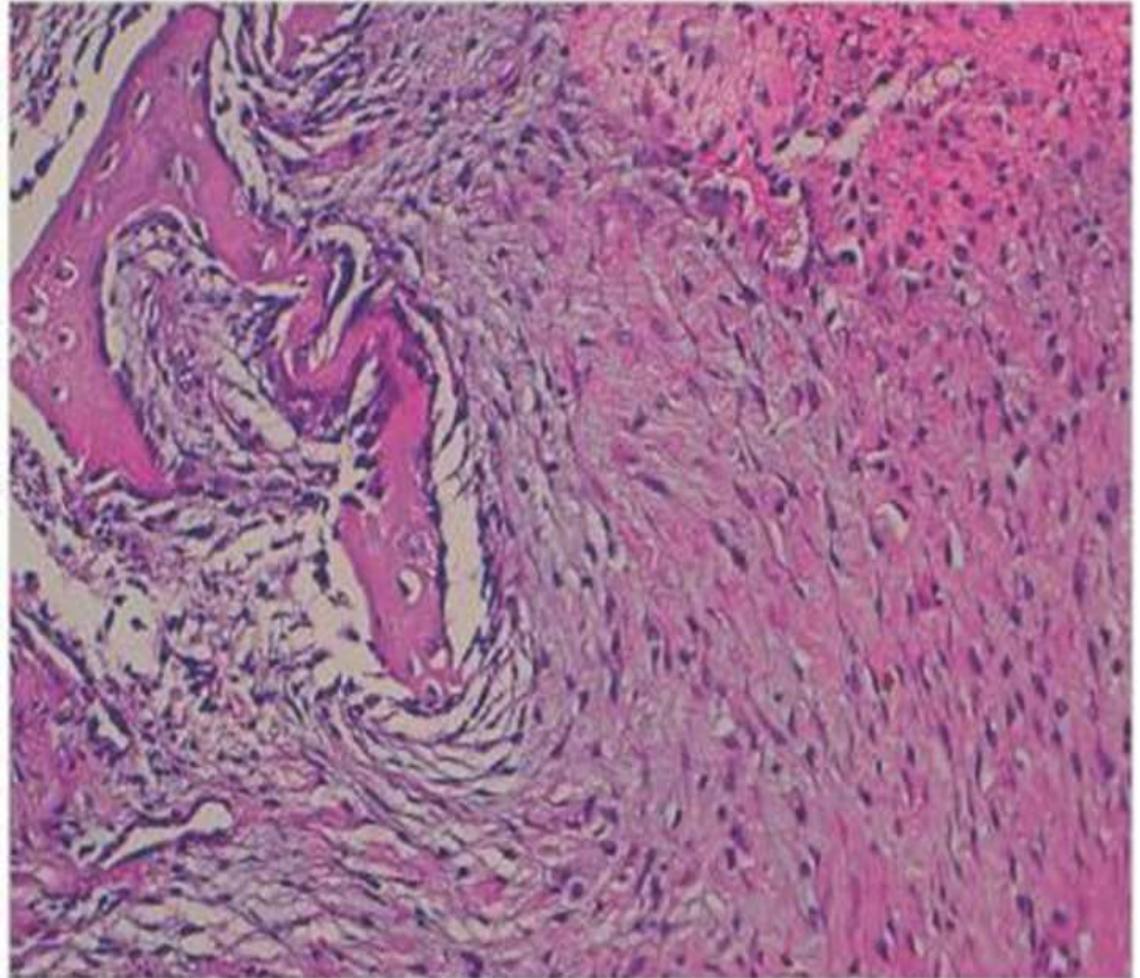
- Circumscribed heterotopic new bone formation without a history of trauma is termed pseudomalignant myositis ossificans
- Reactive, often self healing lesion
- In adolescents, young adults

Radiologically-  
a circumscribed,  
radiopaque lesion  
with a central  
lucent zone that is  
separated from  
the underlying  
cortex by a  
radiolucent line



**Fig. 1: Radiograph of the left knee reveals soft tissue calcification in a pattern suggestive of pseudomalignant myositis ossificans (fibrodysplasia ossificans circumscripta).**

- Microscopy- characteristic zoning pattern of peripheral maturation is present, (the central proliferating zone usually causing the diagnostic problems)



Low power showing zonation with myxoid change(centre) & bone formation (periphery)

# BROWN TUMOR OF HYPERPARATHYROIDISM

- The brown tumor is a bone lesion that arises in settings of excess osteoclast activity, such as hyperparathyroidism.
- They are a form of osteitis fibrosa cystica.
- Not a neoplasm, simply a mass.
- Most commonly affects the maxilla and mandible, though any bone may be affected.

## Biochemically-

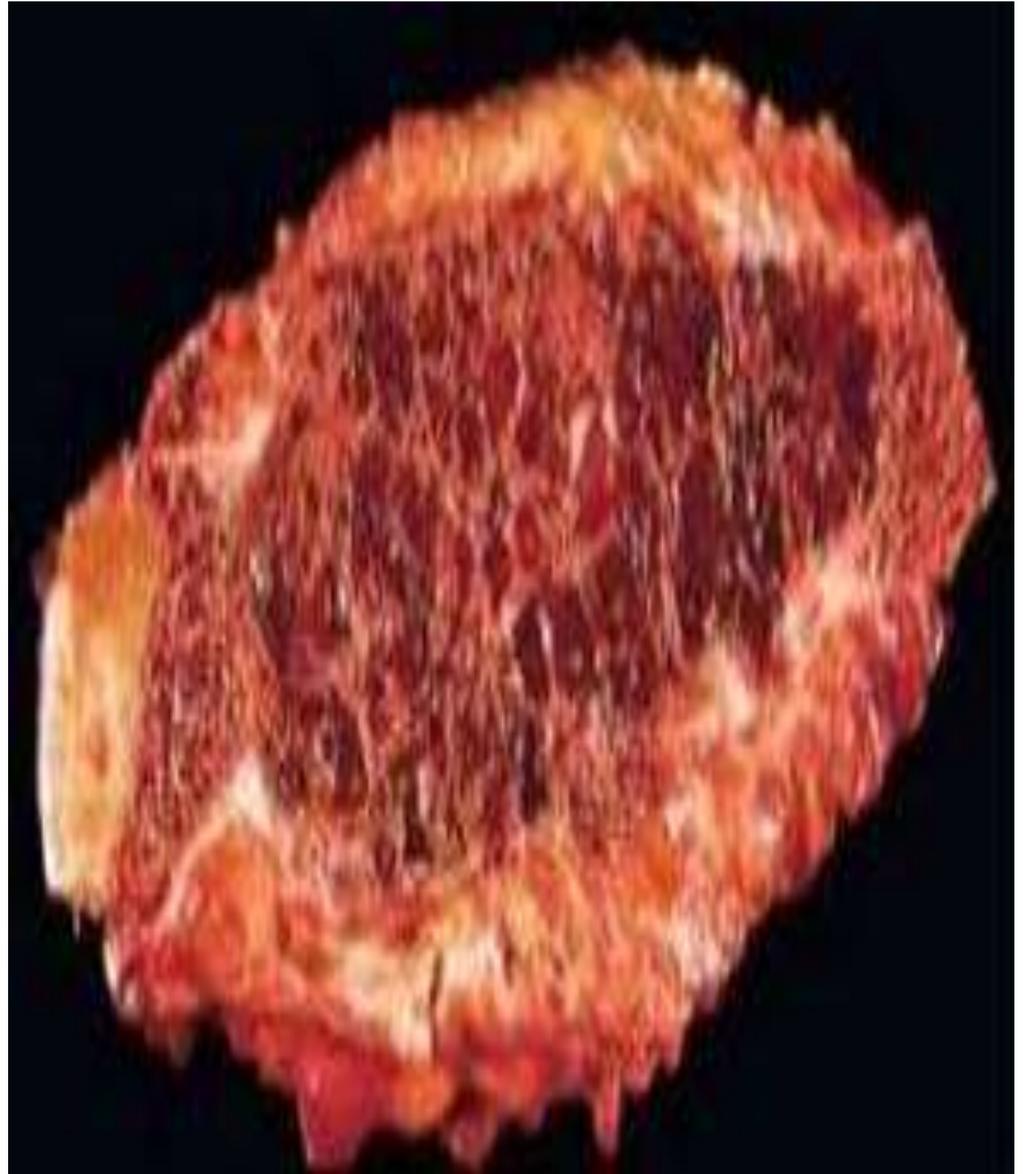
- Hypercalcemia
- Hypophosphatemia
- Hypercalciuria
- Lowering of renal phosphate threshold
- Elevated PTH
- Elevated Vit D
- Enhanced excretion of nephrogenous cAMP
- Elevated serum ALP

Radiograph-

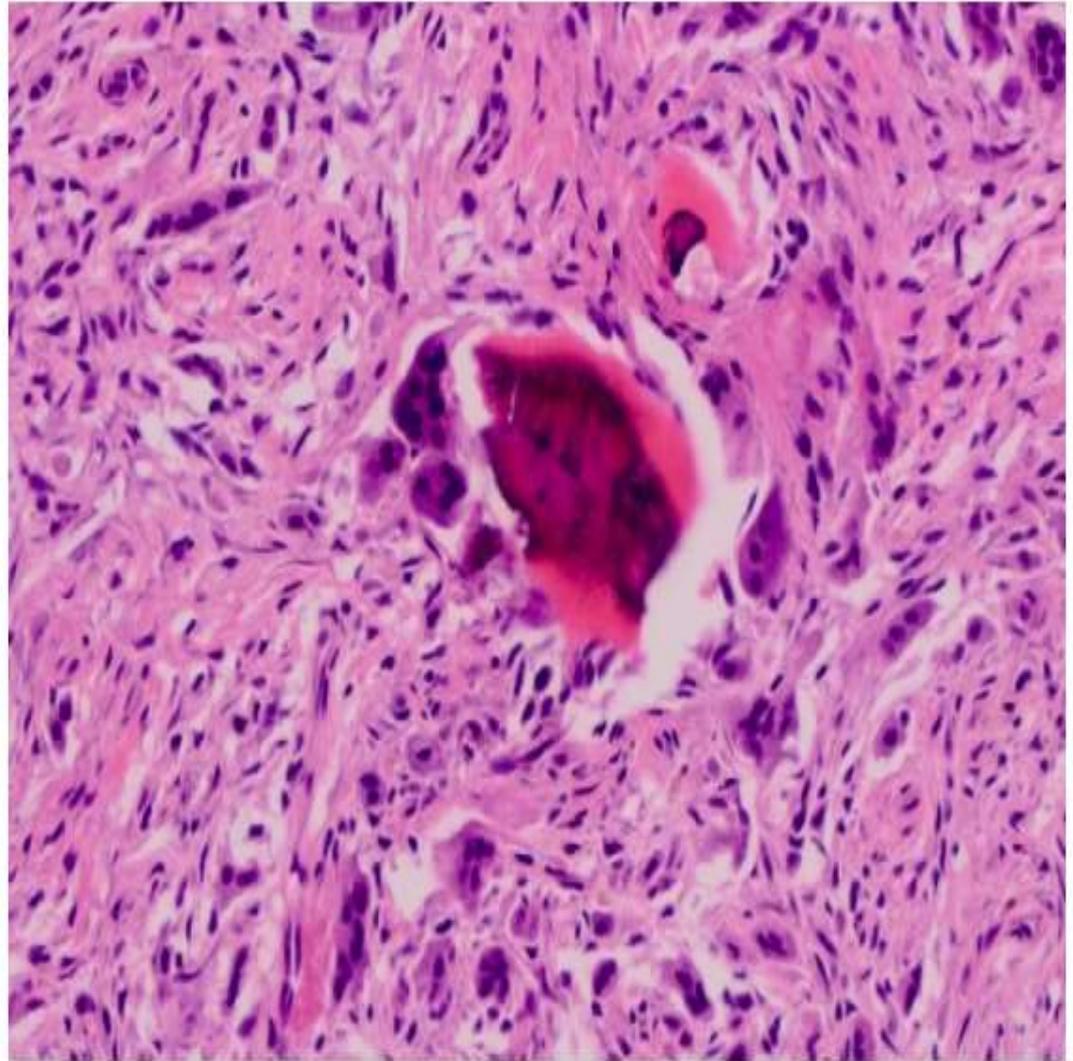
Brown tumor of tibia  
showing-Expansile,well  
circumscribed,lytic and  
thin with subtle  
osteopenia



Gross- Well circumscribed, reddish brown hemorrhagic mass with lobular architecture  
Thin and expanded cortex  
Large blood filled cysts may develop(OFC)  
Peripheral shell of reactive bone may be present



Microscopy-  
Numerous giant  
cells with  
interstitial  
hemorrhage,  
ingrowth of  
vascularized  
fibrous tissue with  
fibroblasts



Multinucleated giant cells around a spicule of bone amidst a proliferative fibroblastic stroma (H&E, magnification  $\times 400$ ).

D/D-

- Giant cell granuloma: different clinical history and laboratory findings
- Giant cell tumor: more uniformly distributed giant cells, no interstitial hemorrhage, no fibroblastic stromal cells



# BENIGN GIANT CELL LESIONS

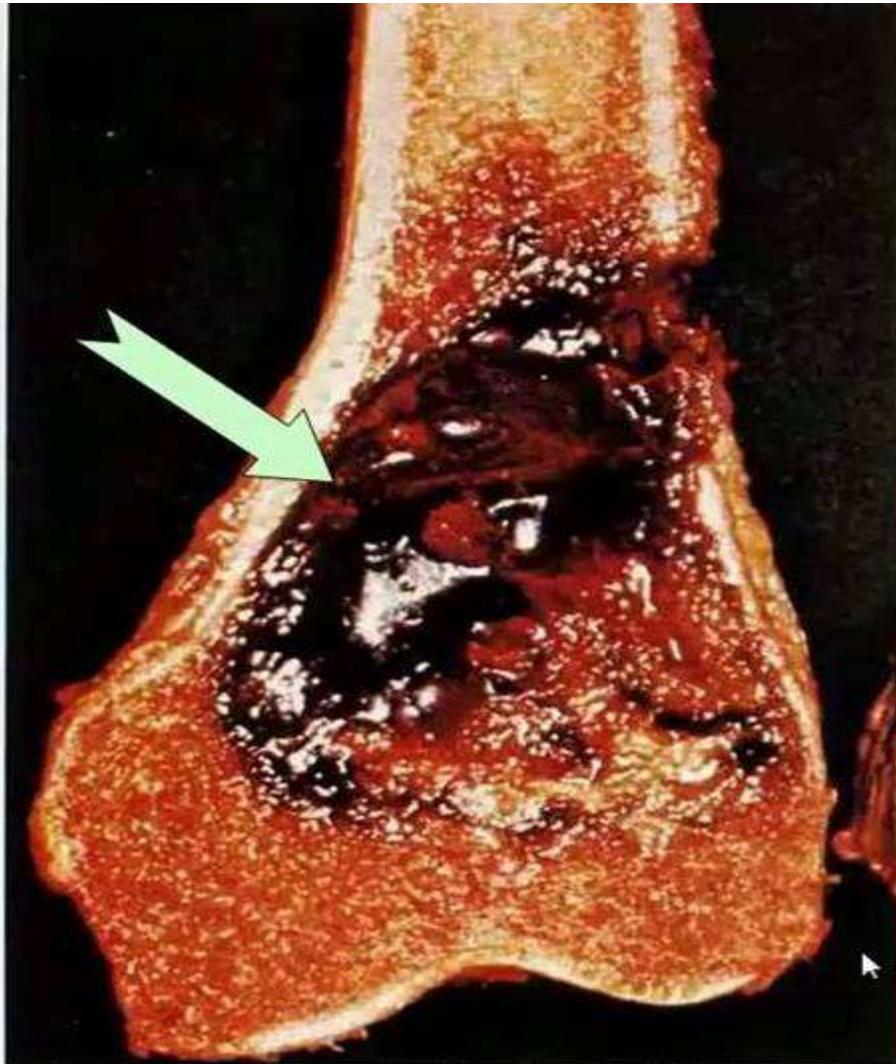
# GIANT CELL TUMOR

- Also called as Osteoclastoma
- Usually benign but locally aggressive
- Malignancy in giant cell tumor is rare (< 2% of cases) and is more common at older ages (30 - 50 years)
- Site-End of long bones,  
most common:  
lower end of the femur  
upper end of the tibia
- Young adults, more common in females.

- Malignancy in Giant cell tumor-
- Primary malignant giant cell tumor of bone: a high grade sarcoma arising in a giant cell tumor of bone at initial diagnosis (uncommon)
- Secondary malignant giant cell tumor of bone: a high grade sarcoma arising at the site of a treated giant cell tumor of bone after surgery or low dose radiation therapy (more common than primary malignant giant cell tumor of bone)

Radiograph-  
Eccentric lytic  
epiphyseal/metaphyseal  
lesion that often extends  
into the distal  
epiphysis and borders  
subchondral bone ,  
no e/o periosteal lifting  
no sclerotic rim





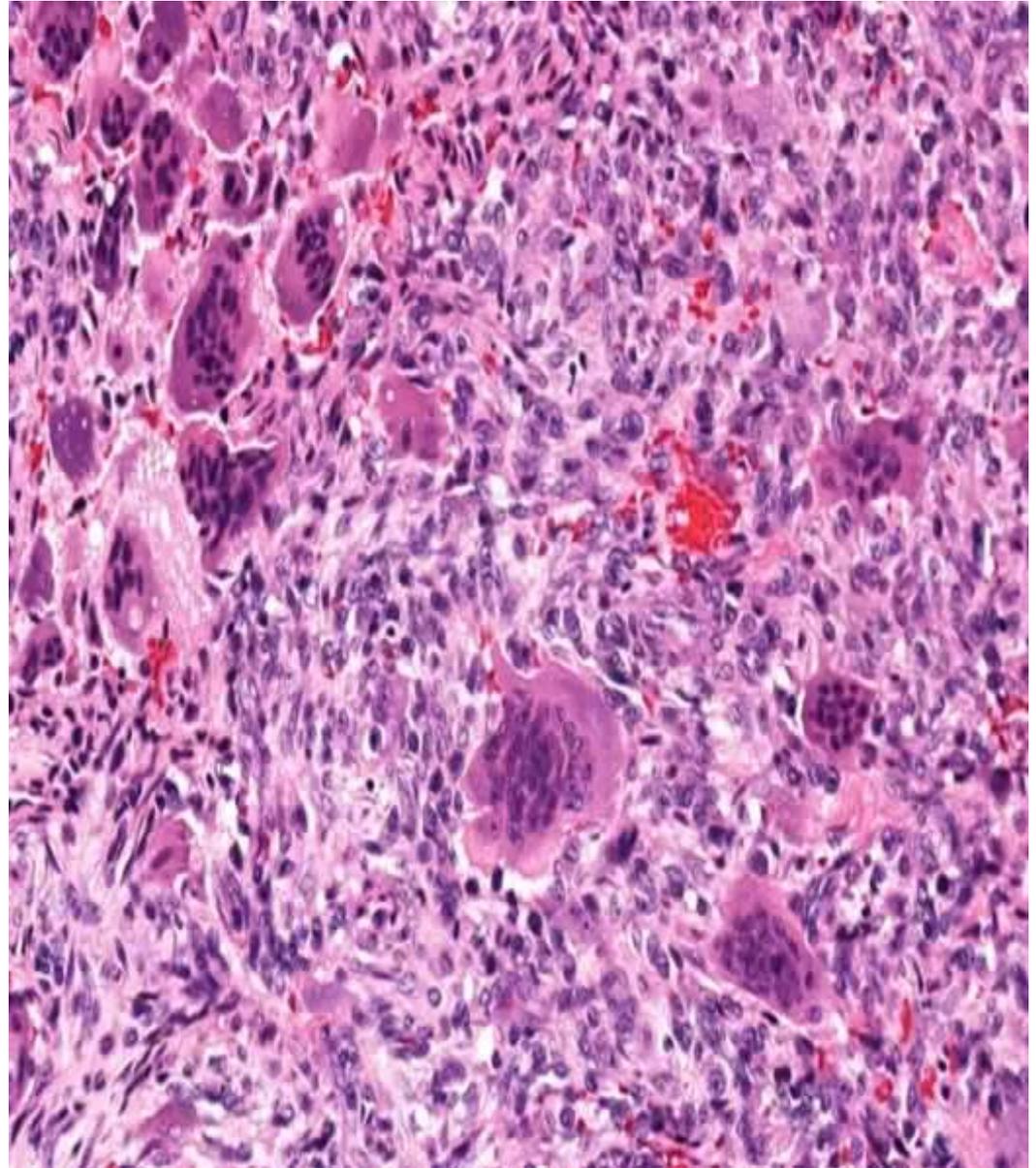
**F13-64: Giant-cell tumor (GCT) of bone: femur.**

☺ Hemorrhagic tumor of the lower femur.

Although the overlying cortex is thinned, the bone contour is not expanded.

13.64 Giant-cell tumour: femur

Microscopy-  
Spindle to round  
mononuclear cells  
Multinucleate  
osteoclast like giant  
cells.



D/D-

- Giant cell reparative granuloma
- Brown tumor of hyperparathyroidism
- Aneurysmal bone cyst, esp. Solid variant
- Osteosarcoma with giant cells
- Metaphyseal fibrous defect

# ANEURYSMAL BONE CYST

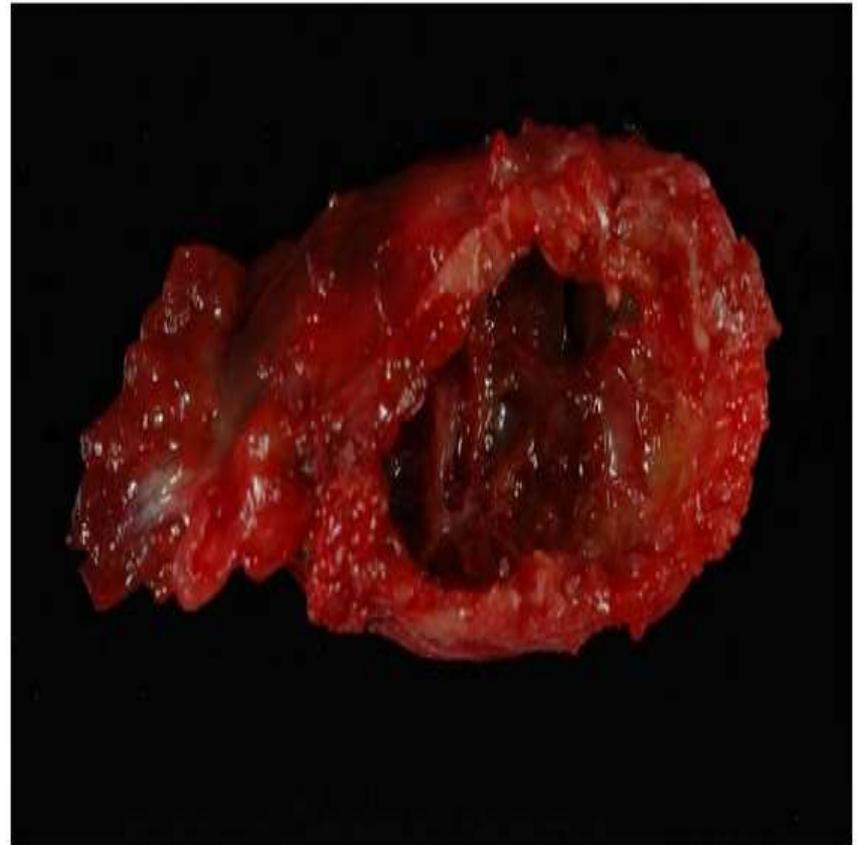
- Expanding osteolytic lesion of blood filled spaces of variable size ,separated by connective tissue septa with osteoclast giant cells and variable reactive bone
- Usual age 1 - 20 years, no gender preference
- Benign but grows rapidly

- Radiograph-  
Eccentric  
expansion of bone,  
cortical erosion  
and destruction,  
small peripheral  
area of periosteal  
bone formation
- Shown here-aneurysmal  
bone cyst of distal radius



## Gross-

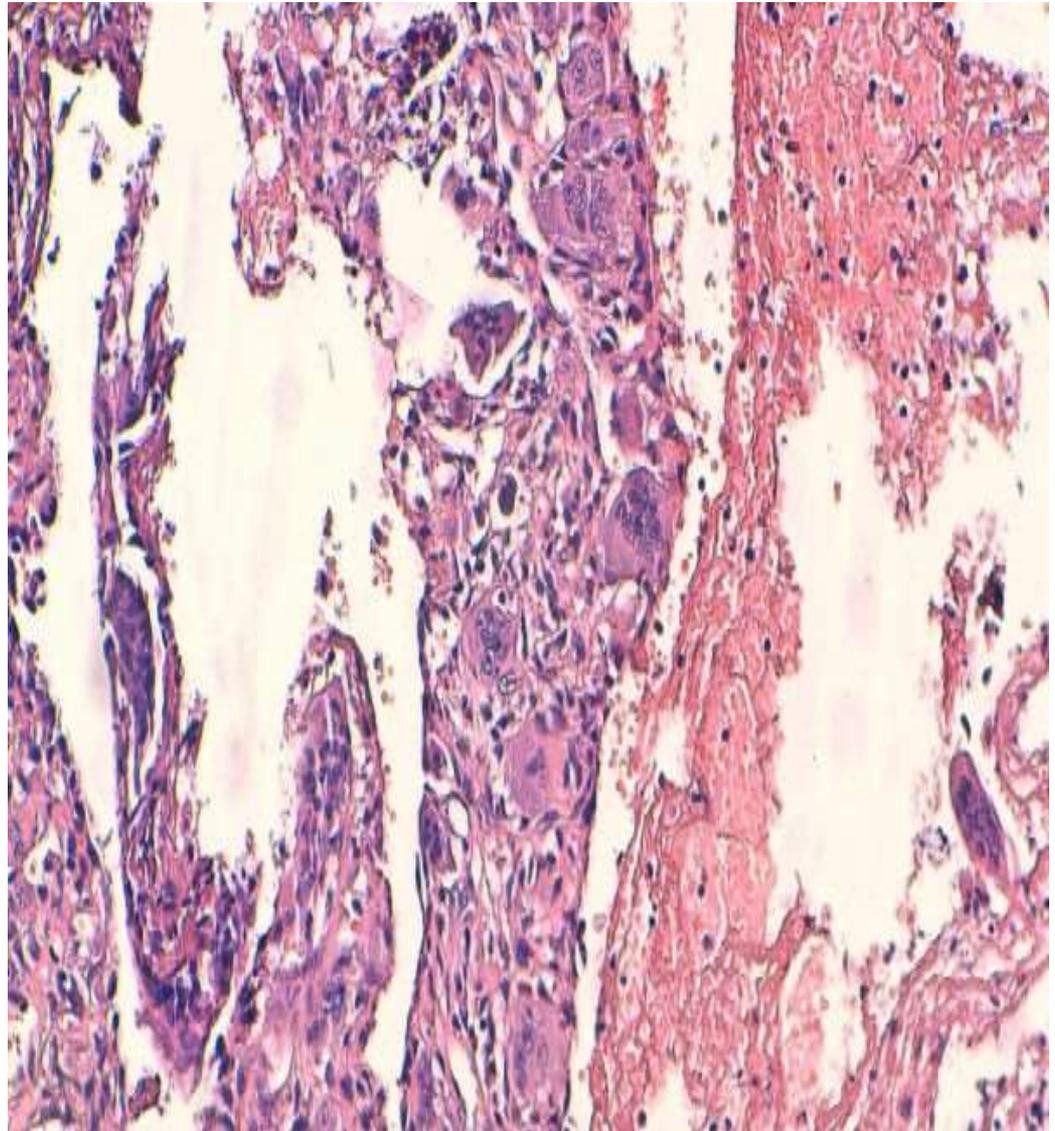
- Spongy, hemorrhagic mass covered by thin shell of reactive bone
- Small amount of tissue compared to large size of lesion on Xray



Photograph of the gross specimen shows the cystic space within the cortex of the bone

## Microscopy-

- Large cystic spaces filled with blood and separated by fibrous septa, alternating with solid areas
- Cysts and septa lined by fibroblasts, myofibroblasts and histiocytes but not endothelium
- Clusters of osteoclast-like multinucleated giant cells with loose spindly stroma to cellular stroma, reactive woven bone, degenerated calcifying fibromyxoid tissue (hematoxylin-eosin stain,  $\times 200$ ).



## IHC-

- No specific marker
- P63-can stain some tumor cells
- CD 68-osteoclast

## D/D-

- GCT
- Solitary bone cyst
- Hemangioma
- Telangiectatic OS

# FIBROUS CORTICAL DEFECT AND NON OSSIFYING FIBROMA

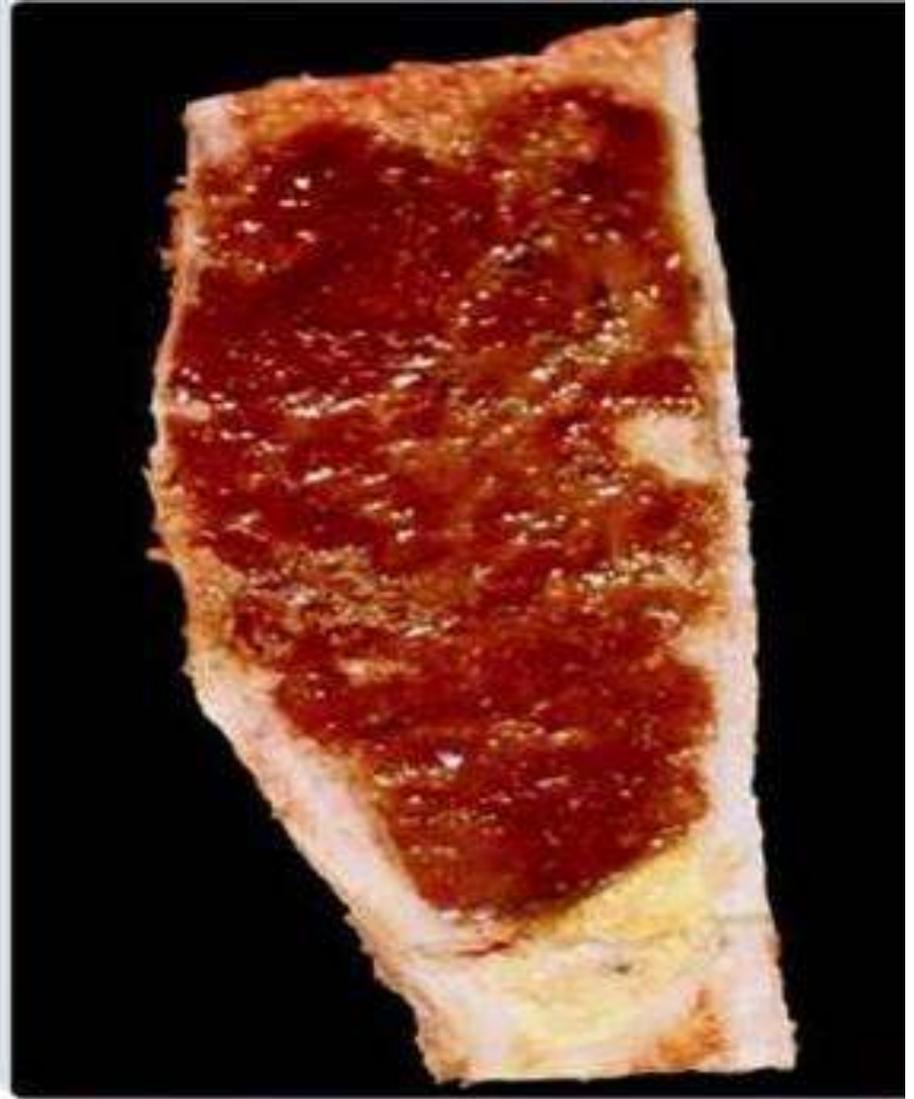
- The fibrous cortical defect and the non-ossifying fibroma are benign fibrous tumours occurring, in the cortex of the metaphysis, in the long bones of children and young adolescents.
- The fibrous cortical defect occurs in children usually under ten years of age
- Occasionally it develops into the more extensive lesion found in young adolescents and known as a non-ossifying fibroma.
- Despite the superficial dissimilarities the one most probably gives rise to the other.

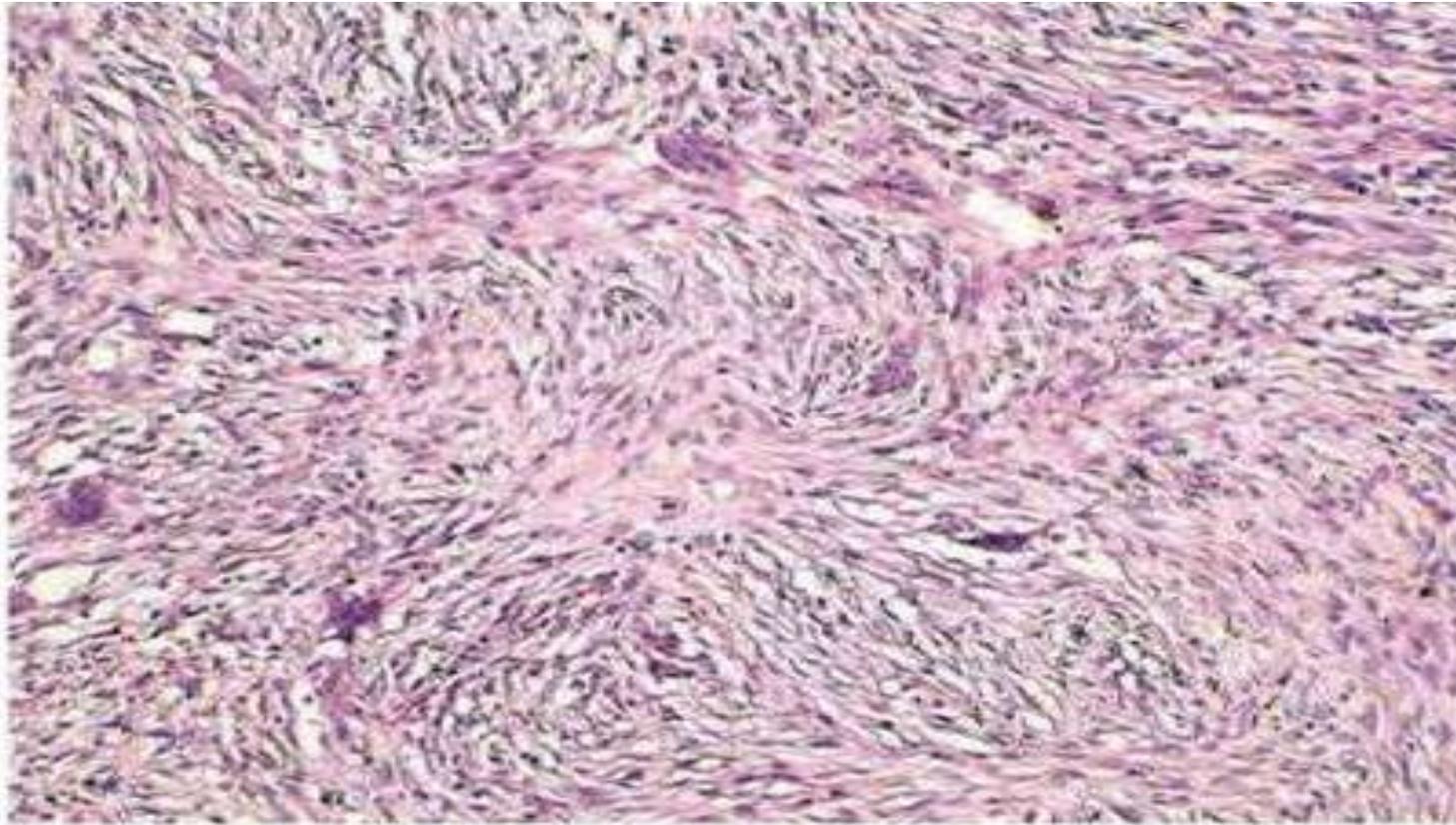


Figure 26-36 Nonossifying fibroma of the distal tibial metaphysis producing an eccentric lobulated radiolucency surrounded by a sclerotic margin.

Both NOF and FCD produce sharply demarcated radiolucencies, surrounded by a thin rim of sclerosis

The solid red-brown tumor has resulted in expansion of the bone and thinning of the cortex.





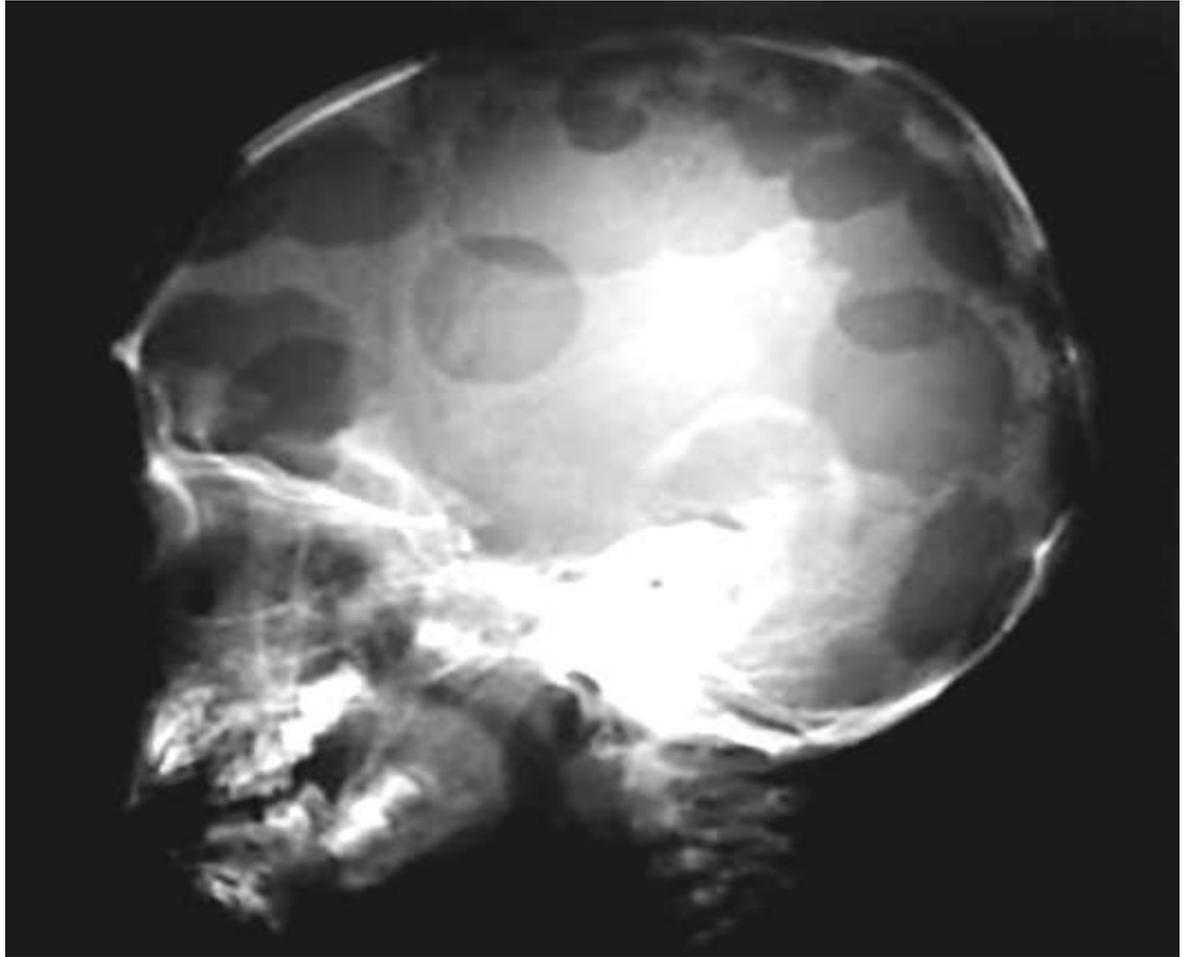
**Figure 26-37** Storiform pattern created by benign spindle cells with scattered osteoclast-type giant cells characteristic of a fibrous cortical defect and nonossifying fibroma.

- D/D
- GCT
- Solid ABC

# LANGERHANS CELL HISTIOCYTOSIS

- Formerly called Histiocytosis X
- Either solitary bone involvement, multiple bone involvement (variable skin involvement) or multiple organ involvement (bone, liver, spleen, other sites)
- Ages 5 - 15 years, 60% male
- Neoplastic, although cause unknown
- **Sites:** skull, jaw, humerus, rib, femur; metaphysis or diaphysis

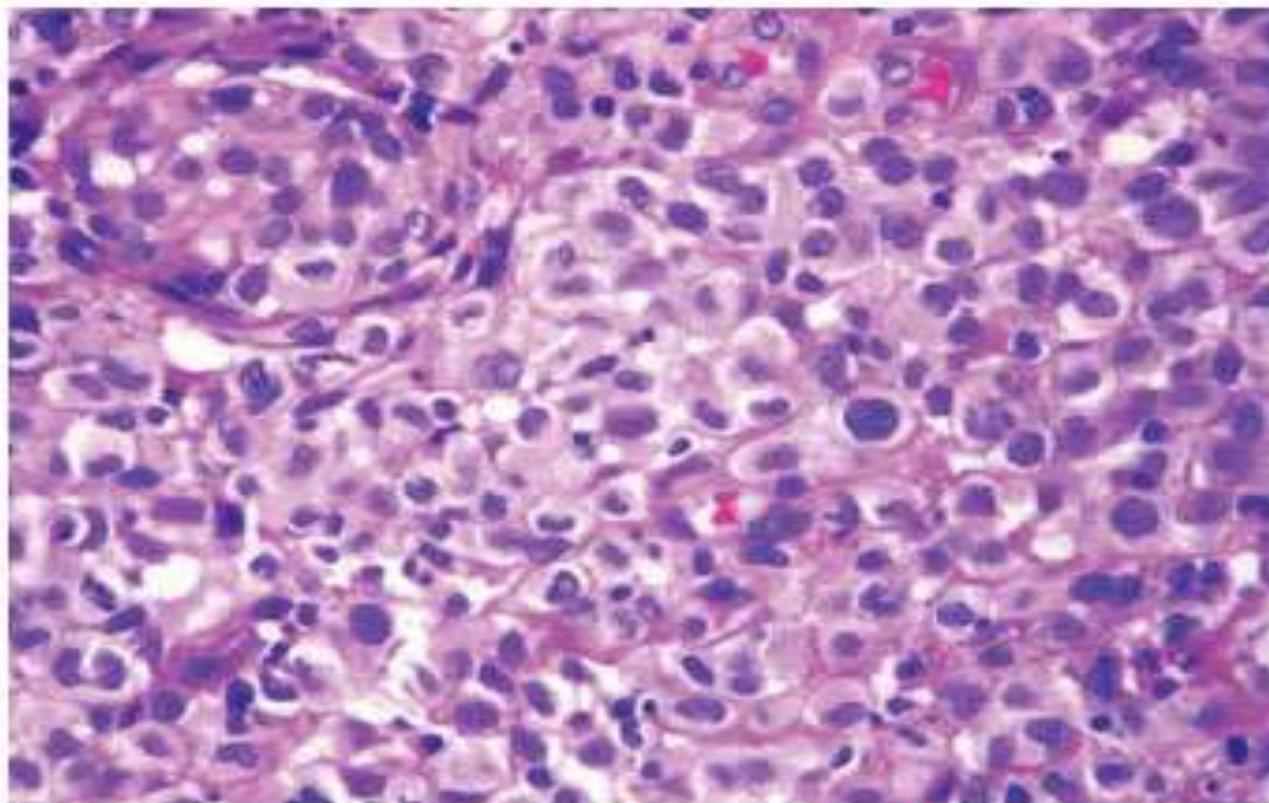
Radiograph-  
Lytic masses that may  
extend into soft tissue



Gross-

Appearance of  
skullbone, sharply  
circumscribed, dark  
brown lesion





**FIGURE 4:** Diffuse infiltrate by the Langerhans cells (large cells with eosinophilic cytoplasm, reniform nucleus and evident nucleoli), permeated by lymphocytes, neutrophils and eosinophils (HE - 400X)

D/D-

- Granulomatous inflammation
- Osteomyelitis
- Hodgkins lymphoma
- Osseous manifestations of Rosai dorfman disease

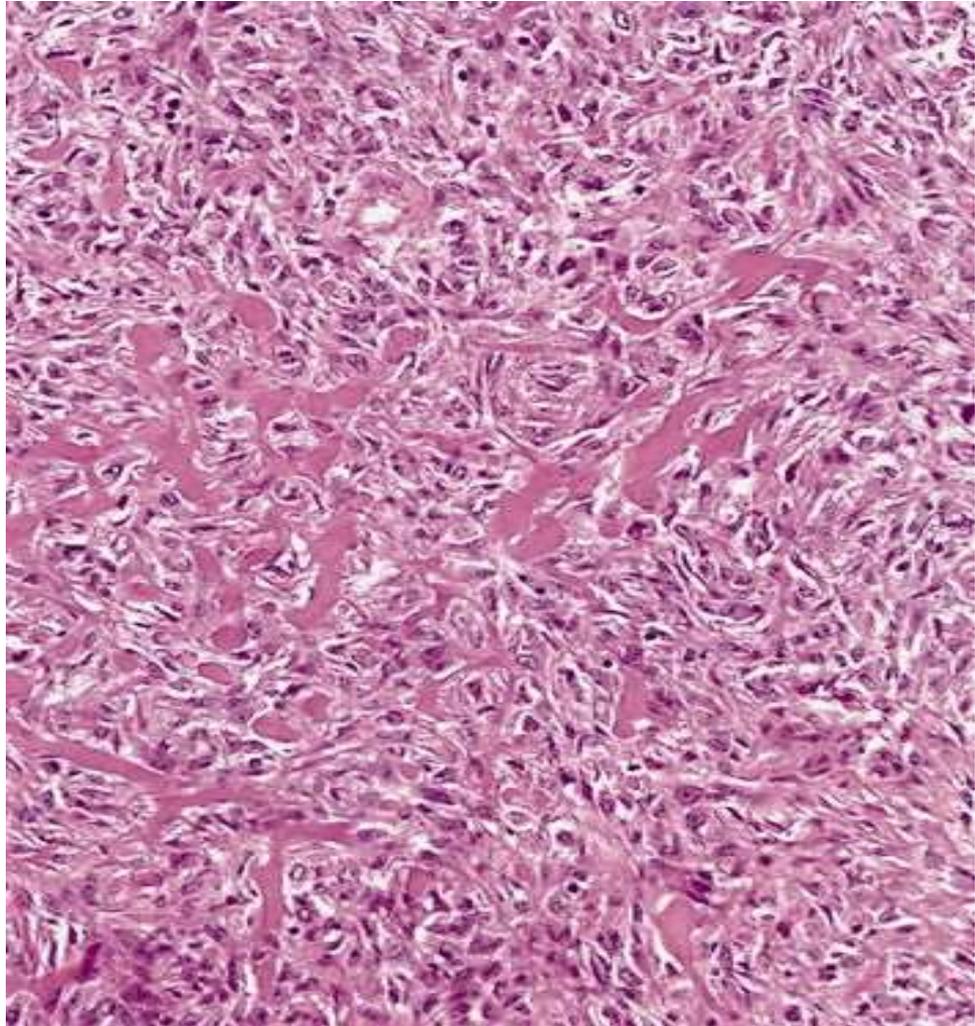
# BENIGN FIBROUS HISTIOCYTOMA OF BONE

- Benign primary bone neoplasia
- Female > male, 3<sup>rd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> decade
- Site-Spine and long bones, non metaphyseal locations
- Asymptomatic, local pain
- Excellent prognosis, curettage, local excision

- Radiograph-  
Well defined, lytic,  
expanding lesion



- Microscopy-  
Storiform  
pattern of  
spindled cells  
with occasional  
foam cells and  
variable benign  
multinucleated  
giant cells



D/D-

- NOF
- GCT
- Malignant fibrous histiocyoma

# CHONDROBLASTOMA

- Benign neoplasm, rare <1%
- Skeletally immature individuals
- Arises in epiphyseal end of long bones before epiphyseal cartilage has disappeared.
- Site-

Distal end of femur

Proximal end of tibia

Proximal end of humerus

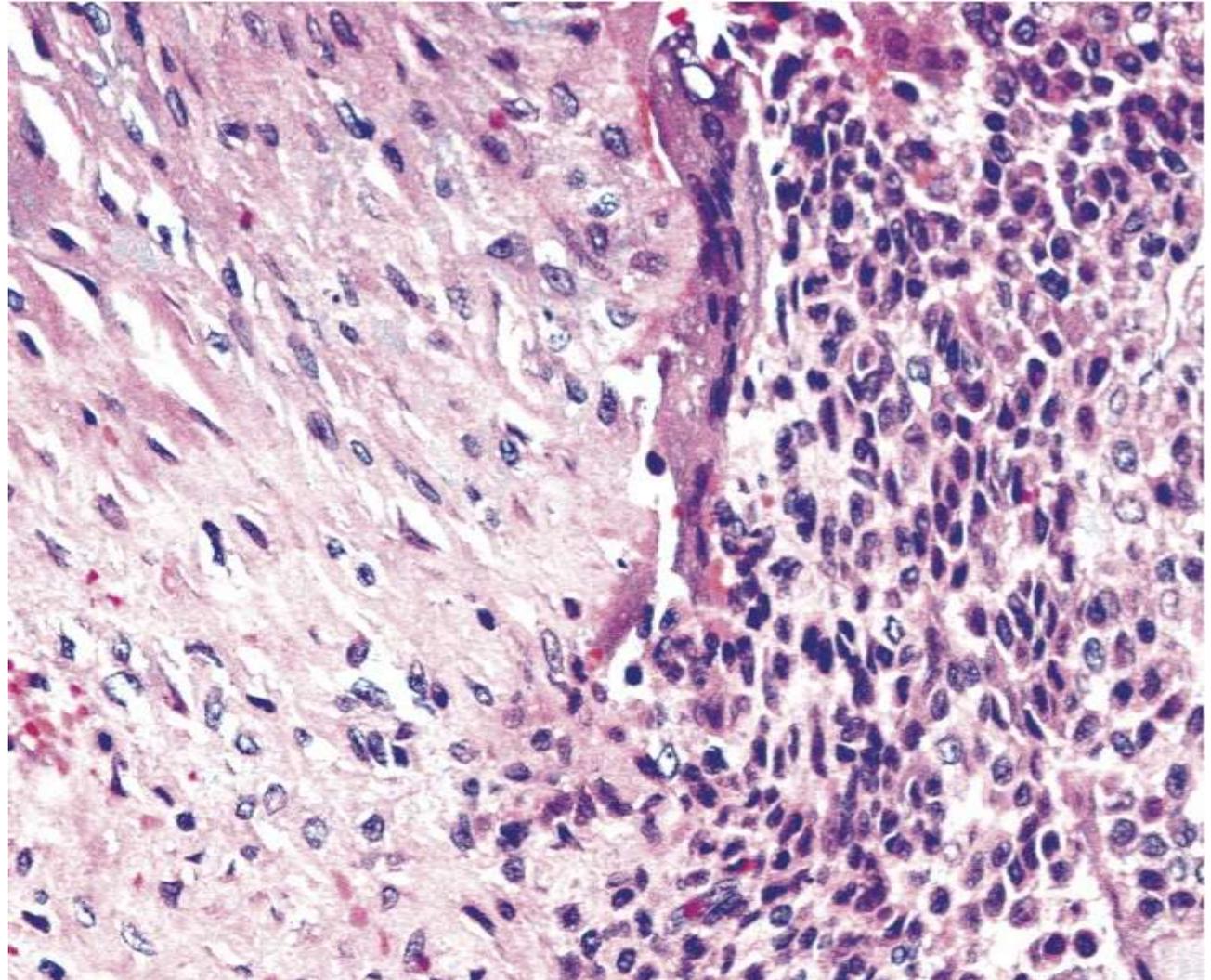
Radiograph-  
Intramedullary well  
defined tumor with  
sclerotic margins,  
radiolucent with internal  
calcifications



Gross-  
Grey pink, well  
circumscribed  
firm tissue with  
gritty  
calcifications and  
hemorrhage,  
<5cm, sharply  
marginated from  
surrounding bone



Microscopy-  
Chondroid  
differentiation,  
the stroma is  
composed of  
mononuclear  
cells with  
distinct  
cytoplasmic  
boundaries and  
scattered  
benign giant  
cells



D/D-

- Giant cell tumor
- Primary Aneurysmal bone cyst
- Chondromyxoid fibroma
- Clear cell chondrosarcoma

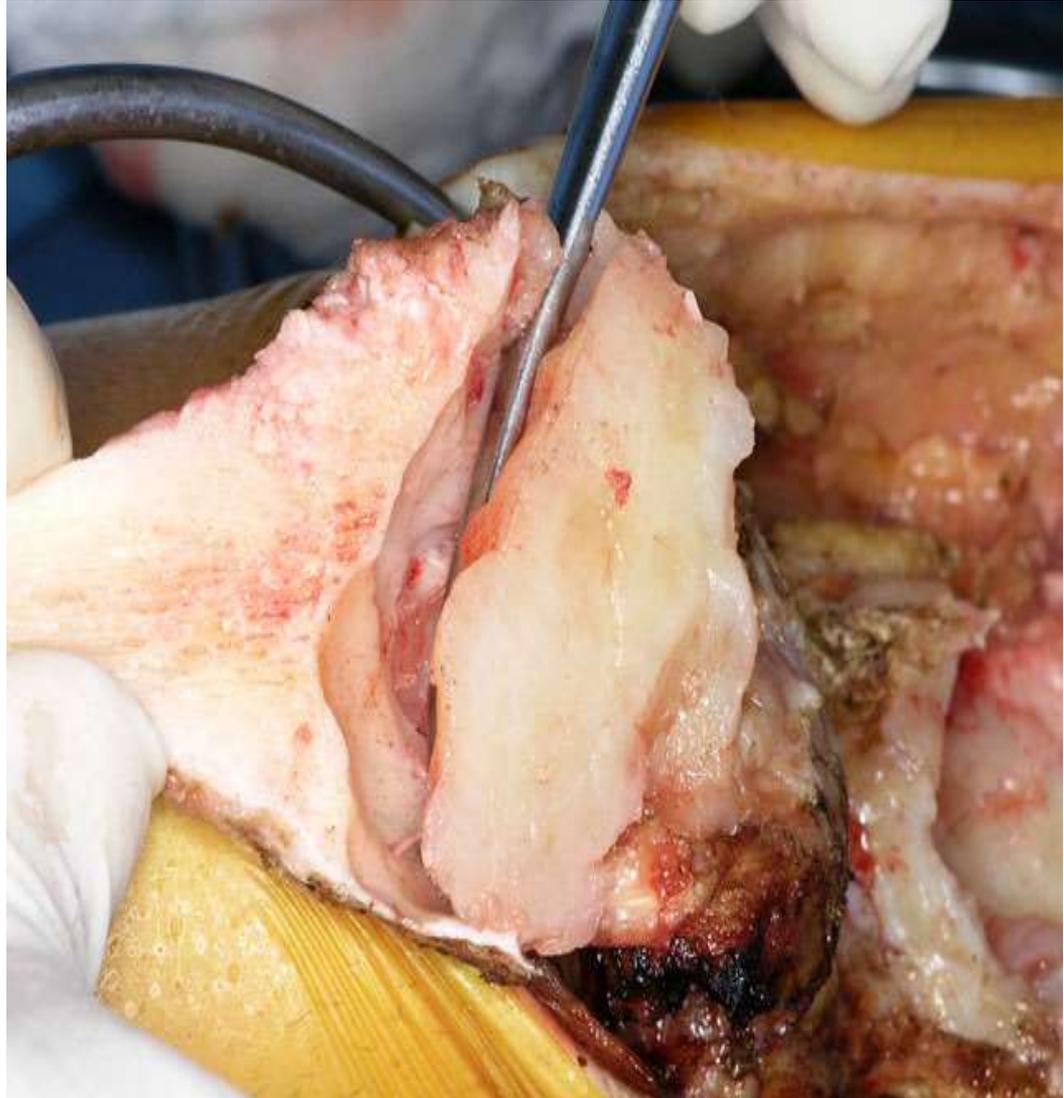
# CHONDROMYXOID FIBROMA

- Rare benign tumor
- Long bones
- Young adults- 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of life

Radiograph-  
arising within the  
metaphysis,  
sclerotic and  
scalloped rim of  
lesion

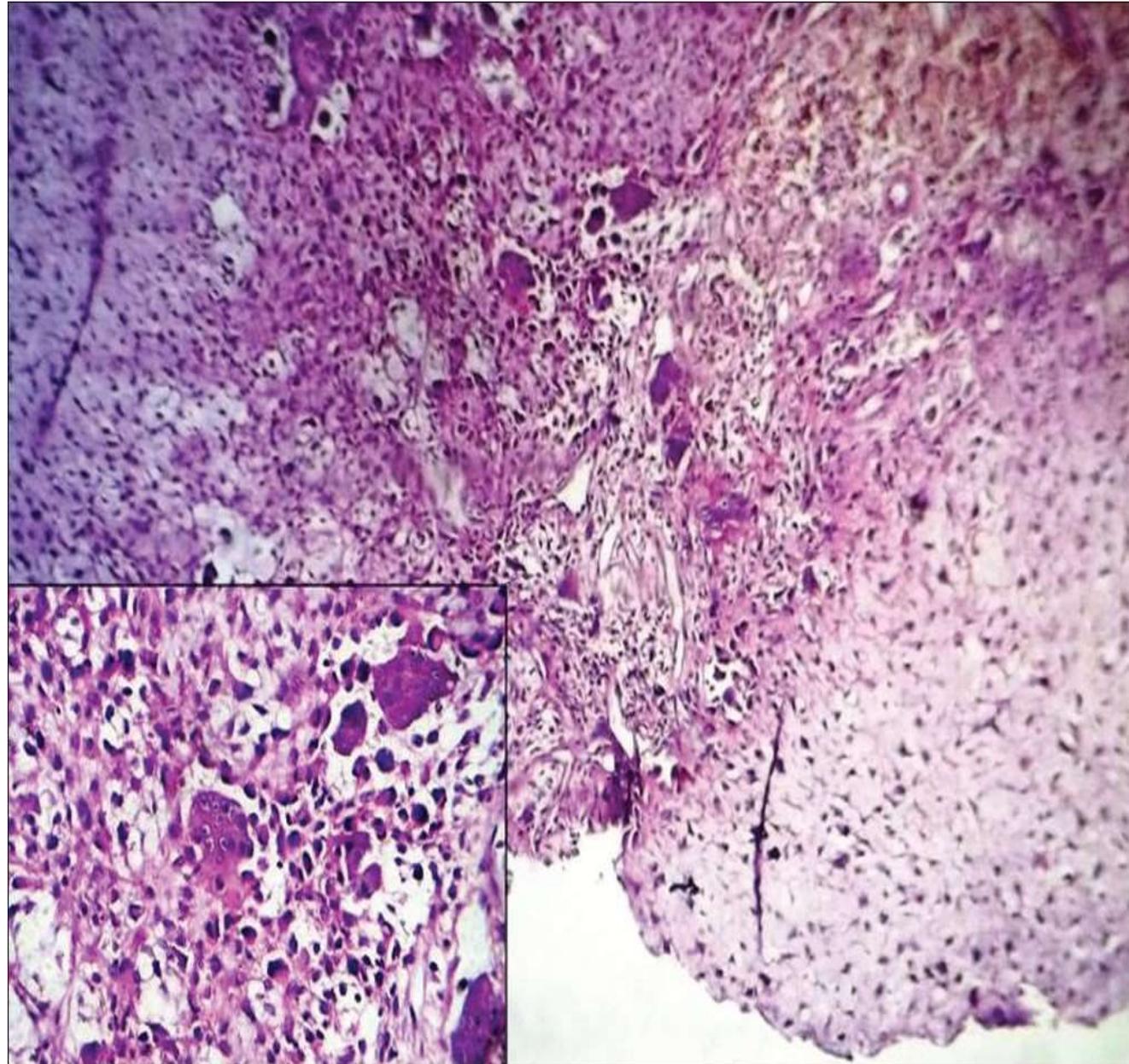


Gross-  
Yellow  
white/grey  
white, lobulat  
ed apperance



Microscopy-

Low power view of a macrolobular pattern in chondromyxoid fibroma. The shape and size of the lobules vary. A hypocellular center with condensation of tumor cells towards periphery. Benign giant cells are seen at periphery of lobules (high power)



• IHC

✓ S-100

✓ SOX 9

Negative for Keratin

- D/D
- ✓ Chondroblastoma
- ✓ Enchondroma
- ✓ Low grade chondrosarcoma
- ✓ Chondromyxoid fibroma like osteosarcoma
- ✓ Fibromyxoma
- ✓ Osteochondromyxoma



# MALIGNANT GIANT CELL LESIONS

# OSTEOSARCOMA

- Malignant tumor in which the cancer cells produce osteoid matrix or mineralized bone
- Most common primary malignant tumor of bone
- Occurs in all age groups but has bimodal age group
- Male preponderance
- Site- Metaphyseal region of long bones
  - Lower end of femur
  - Upper end of tibia
  - Upper end of humerus

- Subtypes-
  - Site of origin-Intramedullary,Intracortical,Surface
  - Histologic grade- Low,High
  - Primary-underlying bone is unremarkable  
Secondary-to preexisting disorders(Pagets,bone infarcts,benign tumors)
  - Histologic features-  
Osteoblastic,Chondroblastic,Fibroblastic,Telengectiactic,Small cell,**Giant cell**
- The most common subtype arises in metaphysis of long bones and is Primary,Intramedullary,Osteoblastic and high grade.

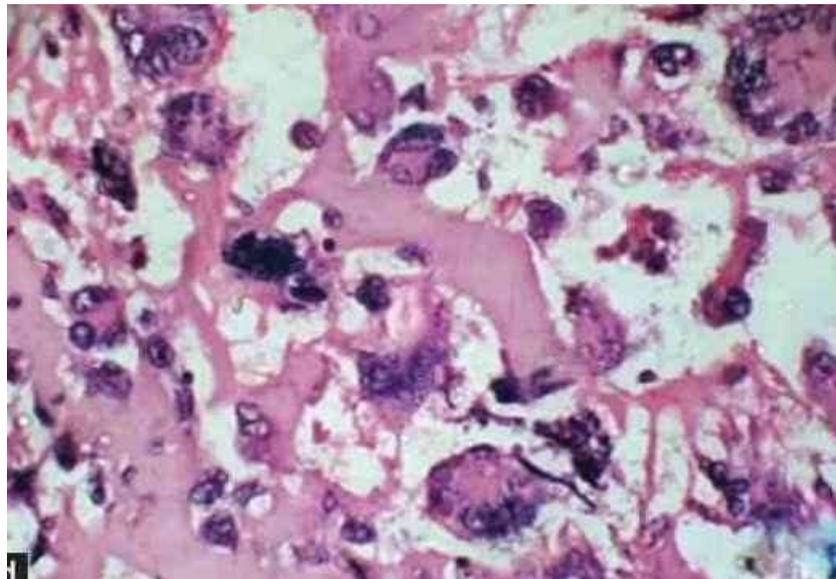
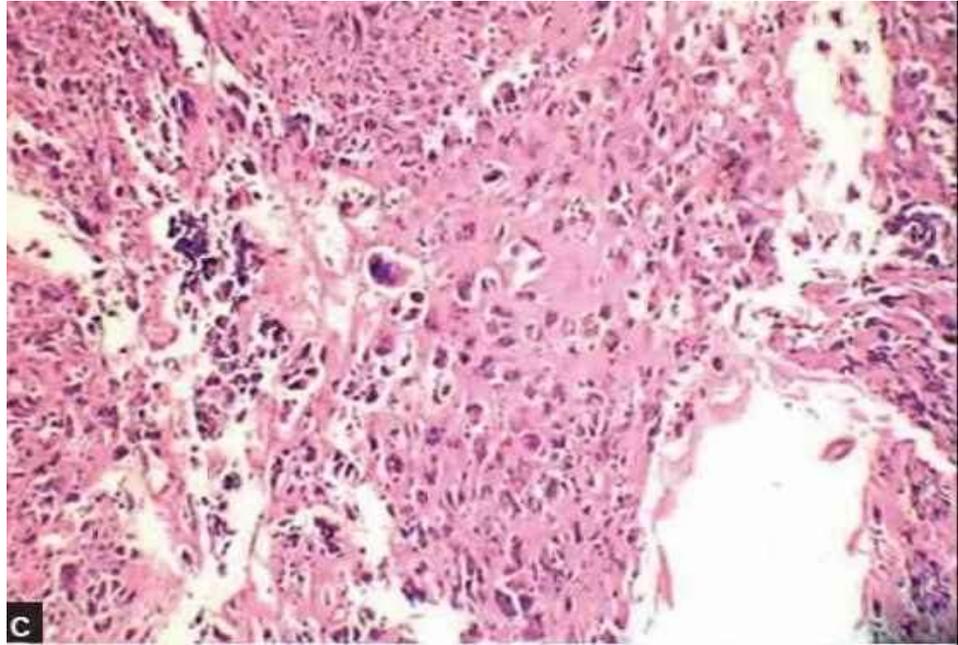
Radiograph-  
An ill-defined  
margin surrounds  
a predominantly  
lytic lesion of the  
proximal tibia of a  
young patient, the  
periosteal reaction  
is weak.  
Some cases, faint  
onion skin-like  
periosteal reaction



Gross-  
revealed diaphyseal  
bony hard growth  
with variegated cut  
surface, areas of  
necrosis, and few  
bluish areas in  
between



Microscopy- numerous scattered giant cells containing large pleomorphic nuclei with irregular nuclear membrane and few showing prominent nucleoli. Malignant osteoid was seen being layered by bizarre atypical cells having scanty foamy cytoplasm, atypical nuclear morphology.

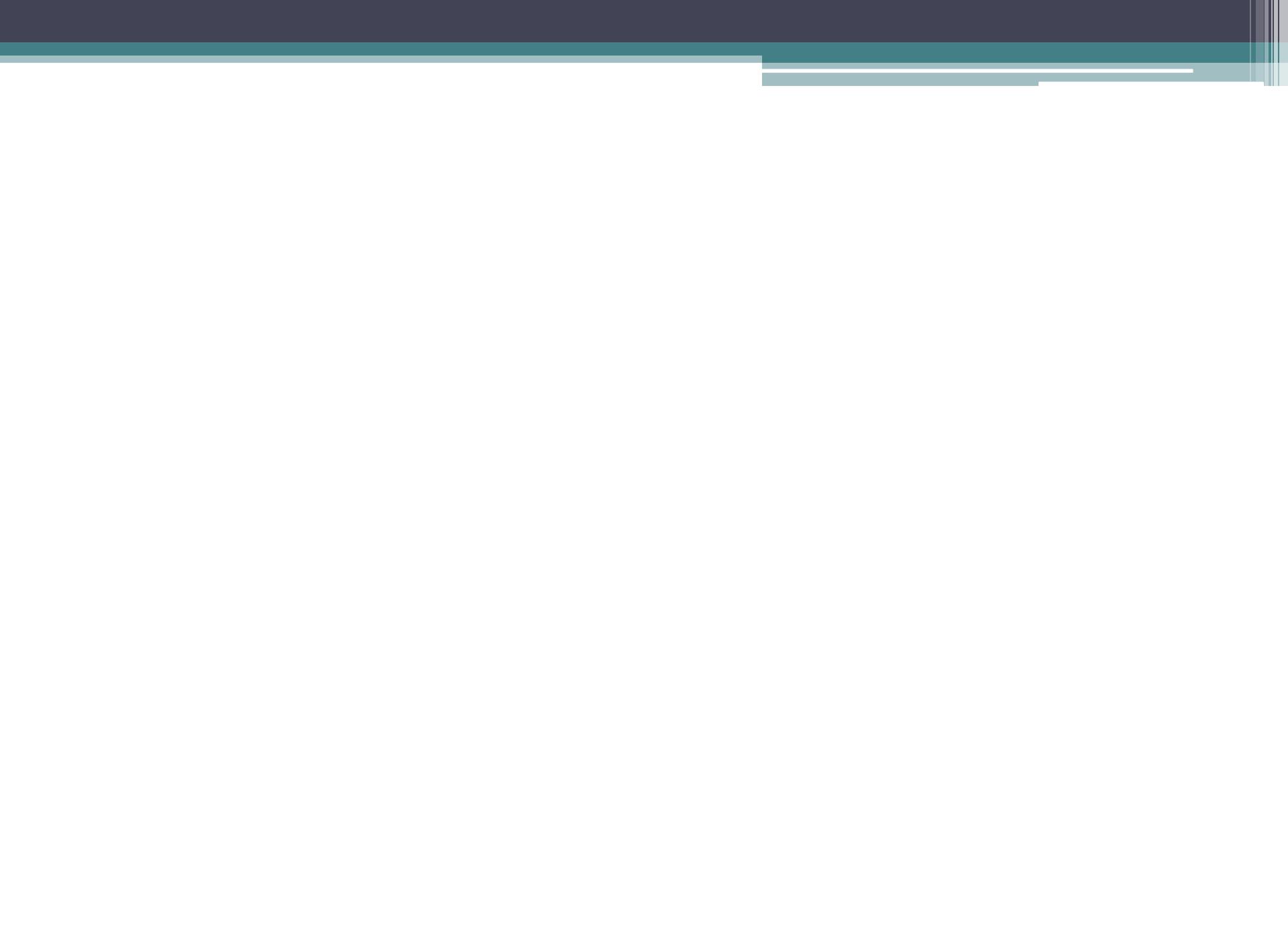


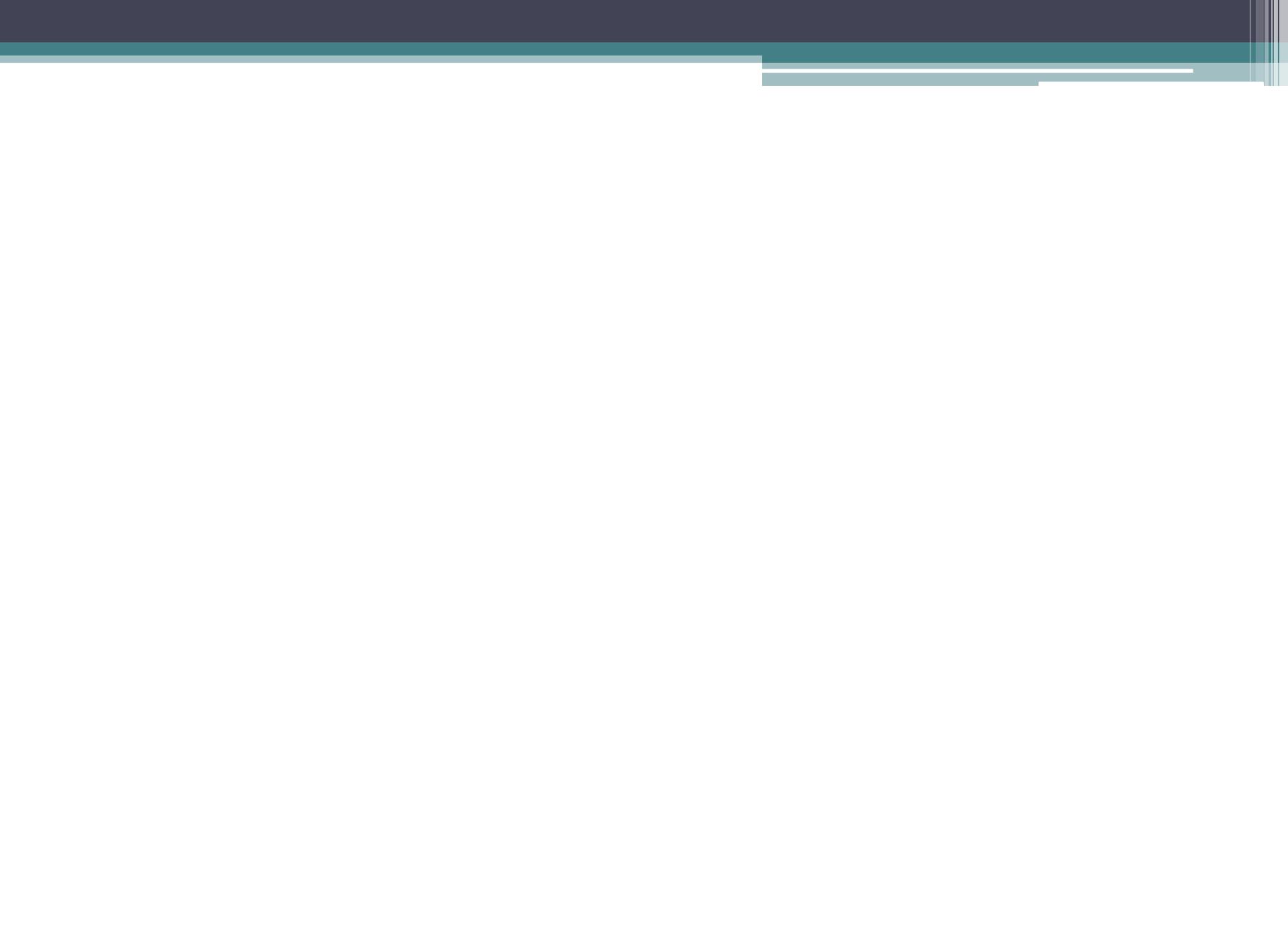
## IHC-

- Strong alkaline phosphatase activity
- Immunoprofile is non specific
- SAT B2-nuclear transcription factor-stains OB-sensitive not specific
- May be positive for keratin and EMA
- Cartilagenous area-S100 positive

D/D-

- Dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma
- Fibrosarcoma
- Ewing sarcoma
- Osteoblastoma
- Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma(so- called malignant fibrous histiocyoma)





**GIANT CELL LESION OF BONE**

**SEE THE STROMAL  
BACKGROUND AND THE  
STROMAL CELL**

**MONONUCLEAR  
PLUMP CELL**

**CELL WITH POLYGONAL  
NUCLEI ,SHARP BORDER,  
NUCLEAR GROOVES.**

**FIBROBLAST  
IC STROMAL  
CELLS WITH  
AREAS OF  
HEMORRHA  
GE.**

MONONUCLEAR PLUMP CELL



UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED  
GIANT CELLS PRESENT  
AGE >25 YEARS  
EPIPHYSEAL LESION  
SOAP BUBBLE APPEARANCE  
ON HISTOLOGY



ATYPICAL MITOSIS ,NUCLEAR  
PLEOMORPHISM OF STROMAL  
CELLS



GIANT CELL TUMOR OF THE BONE ( BENIGN )

GIANT CELL TUMOR OF  
THE BONE  
( MALIGNANT )

CELL WITH POLYGONAL NUCLEI ,SHARP BORDER, NUCLEAR GROOVES.

AGE <25 YEARS , VARIABLE IRREGULAR DISTRIBUTION OF GIANT  
CELLS .

PERICELLULAR CHICKEN WIRE CALCIFICATION ,CELLS POSTIVE FOR  
S-100

CHONDROBLASTOMA

FIBROBLASTIC STROMAL CELLS WITH AREAS OF HEMORRHAGE

FIBROSIS , IRREGULAR DISTRIBUTION OF GIANT CELLS

SITE-JAW

INCREASE  
S.PTH  
LEVELS  
AGE 20-40

DILATED BLOOD  
FILLED SPACES  
AGE < 25  
VERTEBRA LONG  
BONES

CENTRAL GIANT  
CELL  
GRANULOMA

BROWN TUMOR OF  
HYPERPARATHYROIDISM

ANEURYSMAL BONE  
CYST

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**THANK YOU**