Malignant adenomyoepithelioma of the breast

Sir,
I read with interest the article by Attili et al.[1] in the recent issue of the IJS. We also have the experience of two such cases at our department who were diagnosed only after histopathological examination.

However, I fail to understand what made the authors do a mammogram, a computed tomography (CT) of the thorax and abdomen and a bone scan. The examination findings (though not clearly stated) revealed a breast lump about 4 cm in size. Even by staging the patient had a stage IIB disease with normal hematologic and biochemical parameters.

As per the NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) Clinical Practice Guidelines on Breast Cancer 2007[2] for patients in Stage I (T1N0M0), IIA (T0N1M0, T1N1M0, T2N0M0) and IIB (T2N1M0, T3N0M0, T3N1M0), the recommended investigations are as follows:
1. History and physical examination
2. Complete blood count, platelets
3. Liver function tests (LFTs)
4. Chest imaging
5. Diagnostic bilateral mammogram or ultrasound as necessary
6. Pathology review
7. Determination of estrogen receptor (ER) / progesterone receptor (PR) / human epithelial growth factor receptor 2 (Her-2) status
8. Breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (optional)
9. Bone scan (optional) (indicated if localized symptoms or elevated alkaline phosphatase or if T3N1M0) (category IIB)
10. Abdominal CT or ultrasound (US) or MRI (optional) for stage IIA or IIB, indicated if elevated alkaline phosphatase, abnormal LFTs, abdominal symptoms, abnormal physical examination of the abdomen or if T3N1M0) (category IIB)

The Indian Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines (ICCN) on Breast Cancer (2005)[3] advise the following for diagnosis of operable breast cancer (T < 5 cm ± mobile lymph nodes):

**Diagnosis**
- Physical examination
- Optional (mammography / ultrasonography)-include both axillae.

**Tissue Diagnosis**
- Fine needle aspiration cytology/core biopsy
- Excision biopsy
- Frozen section
- Incision biopsy (only when neoadjuvant therapy is planned)
- Staging: metastatic workup, not mandatory

Mallika Tewari
Department of Surgical Oncology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi - 221 005, India.
E-mail: mallika_vns@sifyam.net.in

REFERENCES