Ganglioneuromas are benign tumors that originate from primordial neural crest cells. We report a retroperitoneal ganglioneuroma arising from the left paraspinal region. A twenty-year old woman presented with left lumbar pain. Neurological workup was normal. Imaging revealed a left paraspinal retroperitoneal mass measuring 9.74 x 6.19 x 4.30 centimeters. Complete surgical removal was uneventful. During follow-up, left lumbar pain improved and imaging showed no evidence of the disease.

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Ganglioneuromas consist of ganglion cells and Schwann cells. These tumors originate from sympathetic ganglia, adrenal medulla and other sites. Ganglioneuromas are classified under the neuroblastic group. No specific signs and symptoms or cut points or markers for the diagnosis and the differentiation between the different neuroblastic tumors such as, neuroblastoma, ganglioneuroblastoma and ganglioneuroma. Therefore, histopathology and tissue investigation is important to confirm the diagnosis.

Ganglioneuromas are seen in children over 10 years of age and adults, commonly in posterior mediastinum and retroperitoneum. A study reported 49 patients with ganglioneuroma, which showed equal distribution of the neoplasm in males and females. Although it arises from the sympathetic nervous system, ganglioneuroma rarely leads to devastating symptoms caused by catecholamine synthesis. Surgical resection is the main treatment and it has excellent prognosis.

The aim of this report is to highlight rarely seen case of neuroblastic tumor in Bahrain.

THE CASE

A twenty-year old woman presented with two weeks history of progressive left lumbar pain. No