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**Abstract**

Multiple osteochondromatosis is a familial disease characterized by multiple osteochondromas, defect in metaphyseal remodeling, and asymmetric longitudinal growth retardation. There is a greater incidence in males than females (7:3). It was often first discovered at a younger age than solitary form. There is a predilection for the metaphyseal regions around the knee, hip, and shoulder joints. Radiologically individual lesions are similar to those of solitary form.

The lesions have the same gross and microscopic appearances as seen in solitary osteochondroma. The development of secondary malignancy varies from 5 % to 25 %. The treatment should be considered to correct deformities or functional disturbances.

**Definition**

- A familial disease characterized by multiple osteochondromas, defect in metaphyseal remodeling, and asymmetric longitudinal growth retardation

**Synonyms**

- Hereditary multiple exostoses
- Diaphyseal aclasis
- Hereditary deforming chondrodysplasia
- Ehrenfried disease

**Clinical Features****Etiology**

- Inherited autosomal dominant disorders
- Incomplete penetrance in females

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**Epidemiology****Sex**

- Greater incidence in males than females (7:3)

**Age**

- Often first discovered at a younger age than solitary form

**Sites of Involvement**

- Predilection for the metaphyseal regions around the knee, hip, and shoulder joints.
- The innominate bone and scapula are often affected.

**Clinical Symptoms and Signs**

- Multiple palpable masses and deformities generally discovered after the age of 2 years.
- Some patients may experience spinal cord compression due to vertebral lesions.

## Image Diagnosis

- Individual lesions are similar to those of solitary form (Fig. 20.1).
- The deformities are frequently observed.

## Pathology

### Gross and Histologic Features

- The lesions have the same gross and microscopic appearances as seen in solitary osteochondroma (Figs. 20.2 and 20.3).

## Ancillary Techniques

### Genetics

- There is evidence that mutations in these two EXT1 and EXT2 genes are responsible for over 70 % of the EXT cases of osteochondromatosis. Among the 49 EXT1 mutations, there are 9 nonsense, 21 frameshift, and 5 splice site mutations; 2 in-frame deletions of 1 and 5 amino acids, respectively; and 12 missense mutations. For EXT2, 8 nonsense, 11 frameshift, 3 splice site, and 3 missense mutations are described. The majority of these mutations are mutations causing loss of function, which is consistent with the presumed tumor suppressor function of the EXT genes.
- Mutations in exostosin-1 (EXT1) or exostosin-2 (EXT2), both tumor suppressor genes of the EXT gene family, are associated with multiple osteochondromatosis. All mem-

bers of this multigene family encode glycosyltransferases involved in the adhesion and/or polymerization of heparin sulfate (HS) chains at HS proteoglycans (HSPGs). HSPGs have been shown to play a role in the diffusion of Ihh, thereby regulating chondrocyte proliferation and differentiation. EXT1 is located at 8q24.11–q24.13 and comprises 11 exons, whereas the 16 exon EXT2 is located at 11p12–p11. To date, an EXT1 or EXT2 mutation is detected in 70–95 % of affected individuals. EXT1 mutations are detected in +/-65 % of cases versus +/-35 % EXT2 mutations in multiple osteochondromatosis patient cohorts.

- Jamsheer et al. demonstrated EXT1 and EXT2 heterozygous mutations in 54.6 % and 30.3 % probands, respectively, which represents a total of 84.9 % index cases.

## Prognosis

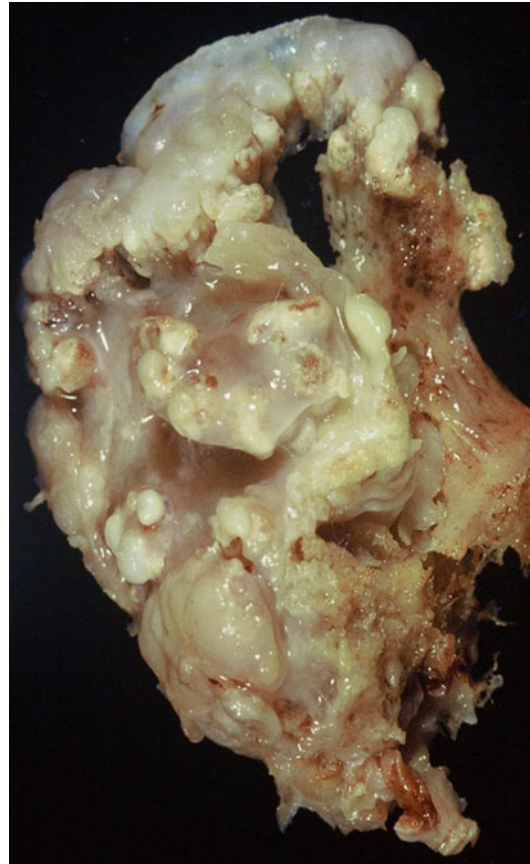
- The development of secondary malignancy varies from 5 % to 25 %.
- Most of the secondary malignancies have been chondrosarcomas.
- A few osteosarcomas have also been reported.

## Treatment

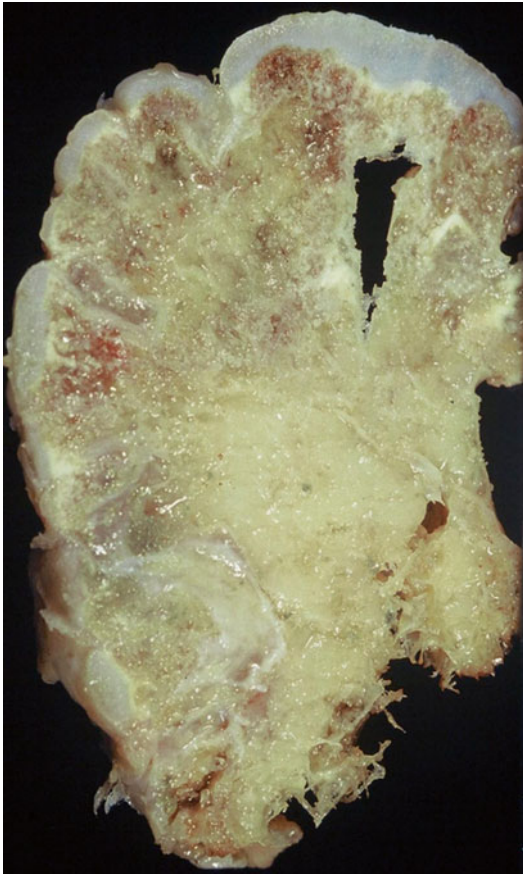
- The treatment should be considered to correct deformities or functional disturbances, such as reduction of joint motion and/or pain due to pressure phenomenon or bursa formation.



**Fig. 20.1** X-ray shows multiple osteochondromas arising from the distal meta- and diaphysis of the distal femur, proximal tibia and fibula



**Fig. 20.2** Outer surface of one of the multiple osteochondromas shows multi-knobby appearance with *gray-white* calcified areas



**Fig. 20.3** Cut surface shows hyaline cartilage cap with myxoid degeneration

## Recommended Reading

- Jaffe HL. Tumors and tumorous conditions of the bones and joints. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger; 1958. p. 150–62.
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