

DEFINITION

1. Pigmented villonodular synovitis is a condition which produces brown-pigmented thickening in the synovial membrane of joints and, more rarely, tendon sheaths and bursae.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. The condition usually presents as a painless monoarticular swelling affecting a large joint, most commonly the knee. Less commonly, the disease is diffuse with prominent involvement of tendon sheaths as well as one or more joints. It may present with increasing pain of insidious onset. There may be locking of the joint or a restricted range of movement. Occasionally there is a sudden exacerbation of pain due to torsion and infarction of a nodule of abnormal tissue.

AETIOLOGY

3. The condition occurs most frequently in the third and fourth decades. The sex incidence is equal.
4. The aetiology is unknown.
5. The two most widely accepted theories implicate either a chronic inflammatory process or a benign neoplasia. Despite extensive research, a causative agent has not been identified.
6. Other theories concerning aetiology are a response to repetitive haemorrhage, with or without trauma, and a disturbance of lipid metabolism.

CONCLUSION

7. **Pigmented villonodular synovitis** is a condition which affects synovial membranes. The aetiology is unknown.

REFERENCES

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