

Lipoma vs Infiltrative Lipoma

Lipoma

Lipomas are tumours of well differentiated adipocytes that are well demarcated from surrounding tissue. They are generally easy to resect and recurrence is rare.

Infiltrative Lipoma

Infiltrative lipomas are also tumours of well differentiated adipocytes, however, they are locally invasive and may filtrate muscle, bone, cartilage, nerves and blood vessels. While recurrence after excision is common, metastases are rare. Infiltrative lipomas are most commonly diagnosed in dogs, and are occasionally reported in cats and horses.

Diagnosis

On biopsy lipomas and infiltrating lipomas are histologically identical. Unless a surgical margin contains the site of infiltration, it is not possible to differentiate between these tumours.

