Neurological picture

Tomaculous neuropathy

Nerve biopsy from a woman aged 21 with hereditary liability to pressure palsies.

Top left: Teased fibres showing several tomacula (arrows). Tomacula (literally "little sausages") were most frequently seen at paranodes and incisures of Schmidt-Lanterman. Scale bar = 50 μm .

Top right: Electron micrograph of a transverse section through a tomaculum, at an incisure of Schmidt-Lanterman. The axon, a, is slightly compressed by infolded loops of myelin. Scale bar = 1 μm .

Bottom: Electron micrograph of a transverse section through a tomaculum. Note the regular decompaction of the adaxonal layers of the myelin sheath: this pattern of decompaction was most typically associated with incisures of Schmidt-Lanterman, but was also seen in paranodal myelin. Scale bar = 0.5 μm .

Inset: Decompacted adaxonal myelin, showing separation of major dense lines. The electron-lucent material between the lines may be Schwann cell cytoplasm. Scale bar = 0.5 μm . a = axon; m = myelin; s = abaxonal Schwann cell cytoplasm.

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