LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: B Allen, C Rader, A Babigian. Giant lipomas of the upper extremity. Can J Plast Sur 2007;15(3):141-144.

Most lipomas, including the giant ones, are benign. Unless there is a suspicion of malignancy, they can be removed through a small incision using a blunt curved clamp: teasing and squeezing the usually lobulated lipoma through the small opening. Care need be taken to empty all the 'pockets' which usually intercommunicate. Liposuction can be used in many instances. 'Radical excisions', which the authors used on every mentioned procedure, should be reserved for malignant growths, proven by biopsy, if need be a frozen section. The recurrence of this benign tumour is uncommon, and if it occurs a repeat procedure through a limited cosmetic incision will take care of the problem. A large deforming scar is not justifiable in this day and age – after all, we are plastic surgeons, and should consider cosmesis in every instance.

Gunter Born MD FRCSC