



Figure 2-1. A 67-year-old woman presents with a rapidly enlarging and uncomfortable mass in the right thigh. Axial (A) T1, (B) T2, and (C) T1 postcontrast MRI demonstrate a soft-tissue mass with internal hemorrhagic and cystic components. Biopsy demonstrated pleomorphic liposarcoma.

Location and Mobility

Despite widely held belief, soft-tissue sarcomas can and frequently do occur in the subcutaneous space.^{2,3} A subcutaneous mass that is large, firm, or immobile should be imaged. Small, soft, and mobile masses can be observed provided the examiner record clinical measurements at each evaluation. Masses that are deep to compartment fascia must be imaged.

Suggestive Findings

- Dense, rock-hard consistency: extra-abdominal desmoid tumor
- Compressible: cyst or vascular malformation
- Pulsations: pseudoaneurysm
- Warmth: nonspecific: infection, inflammation, or increased blood flow
- Regional lymphadenopathy: tender = inflammatory vs nontender = malignancy