INTRODUCTION
Clear Cell Sarcoma of Tendon and Aponeuroses (CCST) is a rare tumor that arises in the deep soft tissues of the distal extremities, particularly the foot and ankle. It is characterized by its aggressive behavior and tendency to metastasize to the lungs, lymph nodes, and bones. The tumor typically presents as a firm, slowly enlarging, painless or mildly painful mass, which may be associated with itching or intermittent numbness. The primary goal of treatment is to achieve a cure, but due to the high rate of recurrence and metastasis, the overall survival rate is low.

CASE PRESENTATION
A 27-year-old female presented with a 6-month history of left knee pain. Physical examination revealed a complex cystic mass in the popliteal fossa, which was later confirmed to be a clear cell sarcoma. Imaging studies showed increased FDG uptake in the left hemipelvis lymph nodes and a cystic mass in the left retroperitoneum. The patient underwent complete surgical resection and postoperative chemotherapy.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:
Demonstrated a thickened soft tissue on the posterior aspect of the left knee extending superiorly without restriction in range of motion. Motor strength, sensory function, and reflexes were normal.

DIAGNOSTIC WORKUP:
Ultrasoundography of the Popliteal Fossa:
A complex popliteal cystic mass with irregular wall and internal debris was identified. MRI of the knee revealed a cystic mass located lateral to the tendon for the semimembranosus muscle measuring 3.8 x 2.3 x 2.1 cm in transverse diameter and extending superiorly into the distal thigh.

ADJUVANT THERAPY:
The current treatment for clear cell sarcoma is wide local tumor excision. In case of close resection margins, chemotherapy may be considered. The primary goal of chemotherapy is to reduce recurrence rate in localized soft tissue sarcomas and may be effective in patients with metastases. The reported 5-year survival ranges from 48% to 55% and adverse prognostic factors include necrosis, tumor size > 5 cm, local recurrence and metastasis. No correlation between histologic appearance and clinical outcome has been found yet.

CONCLUSION
Clear Cell Sarcoma of Tendon and Aponeuroses is a rare, highly malignant lesion with poor prognosis and an unpredictable course. It may easily masquerade as a small benign tumor located in the distal parts of the extremities, yet the tumor can be aggressive with early metastasis. Upon diagnosis, this tumor should be taken very seriously and treated vigorously by wide excision and appropriate adjuvant therapy. This case emphasizes the importance of promptly establishing a correct diagnosis in patients with persistent leg pain so that targeted therapy can be started in order to optimize the potential benefit.

REFERENCES: