

Popliteal Swellings

Approximately 70% of popliteal cysts in young and middle aged male adults are secondary to an intraarticular lesion

95% of the popliteal cysts in children occur as primary disorders

Differential Diagnosis

1. Commonest presentation in children is a semimembranosus bursa
2. Commonest presentation in adults is a Baker's cyst (secondary to underlying OA or RA)
3. Thrombophlebitis (Painful)
4. Popliteal artery aneurysm (Pulsatile mass)
5. Nerve Sheath Tumour (Schwannoma – associated paraesthesia distally)
6. Xanthoma
7. Ganglion
8. Soft tissue Tumours

BAKER'S CYST

- Associated with degenerative changes in the knee
- Varies in size
- Not always painful
- Ruptured cyst mimics DVT