

# Winged scapula due to osteochondroma

## Report of 3 children

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Three children with winged scapula due to subscapular osteochondromata are reported. One case with multiple osteochondromatosis had two subscapular lesions. After resection, our cases became normal immediately and had no recurrence.

Winged scapula or scapula alata is by definition a prominence of the medial border of the scapula. Winging is either dynamic or static. Dynamic winging is due to neurovascular disorders. Static winging is very rare and can be secondary to a solitary subscapular osteochondroma.

The unsightly winging was the main cause for all 3 children to seek medical advice. In all the cases the osteochondroma could be palpated when the shoulder joint was internally rotated, and oblique radiography confirmed the diagnosis (Figure 1).

### Case reports

#### Case 1

An 11-year-old girl operated on for a left-sided subscapular osteochondroma and reexamined 12 years later.

#### Case 2

A 12-year-old boy operated on for a left-sided subscapular osteochondroma and reexamined 5 years later.

#### Case 3

A 6-year-old girl with multiple osteochondromatosis operated on for two left-sided subscapular osteochondromas. Simultaneously, an osteochondroma in the proximal metaphysis of the humerus on the same side was removed. The patient was reexamined 2 years later.



Figure 1. Case 2. A 12-year-old boy with winged scapula due to a subscapular osteochondroma.

At surgery the arm was kept free, maximally internally rotated, and parallel to the body. The osteochondromata were in all the cases mushroom-shaped and easily removed through an incision parallel to the vertebral margin of the scapula. Directly after surgery, the contour of the scapula became normal. At reexamination, all the patients were free from pain and had a normal contour of the scapula and normal shoulder motion. Radiography showed no recurrence.

## References

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## Discussion

The most common tumor of the scapula is osteochondroma (Samilson et al. 1967). Osteochondromata located on the anterior side of the scapula will give rise to winging of the scapula.

In a material of 209 patients with 23 different causes of winged scapula, Fiddian and King (1984) described 1 case of scapular osteochondroma. Winged scapula caused by subscapular osteochondroma had previously been described by Milch (1950) 1 case, Rinaldi (1966) 5 cases, Parsons (1973) 3 cases, and Cooley and Torg (1982) 1 case.