

Picture Prognosis

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A 60-year-old woman presents with a 25-year history of a slowly enlarging, painless wrist swelling. The mass is soft, compressible, mildly purple, disappears completely when the arm is elevated above heart level, and refills on dependency. No trauma, bruit, thrill, or pulsation is noted. What is the most likely diagnosis?

1. Venous aneurysm
2. Ganglion cyst
3. Arteriovenous fistula
4. Lipoma

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Answer: Venous aneurysm

Venous aneurysm is a rare focal venous dilation that is soft, compressible, collapses with elevation, and refills gradually when dependent. Superficial VAs may remain asymptomatic for years and can often be diagnosed clinically. Definitive management is ligation and excision if symptomatic or enlarging. Ganglion cyst is common at the wrist but typically firm, noncompressible, and does not collapse with limb elevation. Arteriovenous fistula is usually associated with trauma or procedures and presents with a bruit or thrill, which were absent here. Lipoma is soft but noncompressible and unaffected by limb position.