

Dercum's disease affects females more often than males with some reports citing the disease is as 20 times more common in women. Dercum's disease can affect individuals of any age. The majority of cases are women between the ages of 45-60, especially overweight, postmenopausal women. Although an extremely rare occurrence, it has been reported in children. The prevalence of Dercum's disease is unknown. The disorder is underdiagnosed, making it difficult to determine its true frequency in the general population. Dercum's disease was first described in the medical literature in 1882 by an American neurologist named Francis Xavier Dercum's. A diagnosis of Dercum's disease is suspected based on a detailed patient history, a thorough clinical evaluation and identification of characteristic multiple fatty growths. Surgical removal and microscopic study (biopsy) of affected tissue confirms that these growths are lipomas.