Glomus Tumour

- Glomus body = meuromyoarterial apparatus in the peripheral digits responsible for controlling blood pressure and temperature
- Glomus tumour (benign hamartoma) has an association with neurofibromatosis
- 1% of hand tumours, with a higher incidence in women.
- 90% occur in sub-ungual region, where glomus bodies tend to be concentrated; but 10% occur in pulp

- Classical triad of symptoms:
  - Painful tip of digit – paroxysmal & excruciation (not solely nocturnal)
  - Tenderness to palpation
  - Cold insensitivity

- Pathognomic signs:
  - Love's pin test – tender of direct pressure from head of a pin
  - Hildreth's test – abolishment of pain when repeated with a digital tourniquet
  - Cold sensitivity – pain reproduced within 60 seconds of immersion in ice cold water

- X-rays may show a shelled out lesion dorsally, where it has perforated distal phalanx. MRI usually performed.

- Treatment is usually surgical exision – usually from a mid-lateral approach (or subungual approach)

- Differential:
  - Mucous cyst – arises from DIPJ
  - Pyogenic granuloma – cutaneous lesion primarily that ulcerates
  - Enchondroma – distinguish on MRI
  - Always consider a malignant lesion (e.g. melanoma)