

## OSTEOMYELITIS OF HUMERUS MIMICS MALIGNANCY: A CASE REPORT

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**Introduction:** Osteomyelitis is often difficult to distinguish from a bone tumor; it is due to clinical findings are non-contributory and radiological features can mimic a bone tumor. Humerus is a long bone which plays a common prevalence for both osteomyelitis and malignancy.

**Discussion:** It is crucial to differentiate between infection and tumor as direction of treatment will determine the prognosis. They can mimic each other in terms of soft-tissue swelling, cortical tunnelling, focal cancellous lysis and resorption, periosteal reaction and sunburst appearance on X-ray. MRI has high sensitivity and specificity to provide precise diagnosis. Choice of treatment for osteomyelitis includes surgical debridement, bone curettage, corticotomy and bone fixation if necessary. Minimum six weeks of antibiotics is required and adjusted according to the culture and sensitivity with regular monitoring of inflammatory markers.

**Conclusion:** It is important to differentiate between bone infection and tumor from clinical presentation, with helps of MRI and intra-operative biopsy finding. Early appropriate treatment can lead to good prognosis of the case.