

## POST-TRAUMA PAIN IN CHILDREN - IS IT REALLY A SOFT TISSUE INJURY?

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**Introduction:** Treating toddlers with pain is tricky. Meticulous history taking and examination must be taken in measure to prevent any misleading treatment.

**Discussion:** A healthy and immunized 9 month-old girl presented with left upper limb weakness for one week. One week prior, she fell and landed directly to her left shoulder from bed. No wound, swelling or fever reported. On examination, she was not septic. The left shoulder was tender, with limited range of motion. Otherwise, the shoulder was not swollen, warmth or erythematous. No abnormality detected in the initial x-ray (figure 1), thus she was treated as having soft tissue injury. However, on the next two weeks follow up, symptoms persisted and the shoulder x-ray (figure 2) showed lytic lesion over proximal left humerus. Left shoulder ultrasound was normal. Diagnosis of proximal left humerus osteomyelitis was made, but since patient did not show any signs of infections, MRI was proceeded to determine whether the lesion was solely infection or malignancy. MRI of left shoulder showed features of osteomyelitis. She was then treated with antibiotic for 6 weeks. 4 months later, she was symptom-free with full range of motion of left shoulder. Radiographs showed a nearly full recovered left proximal humerus.

**Conclusion:** X-ray is usually normal in acute phase of osteomyelitis<sup>1</sup>. MRI is the most sensitive imaging which also able to differentiate osteomyelitis and malignant bone tumour<sup>1</sup>. The treatment may not necessarily require surgical intervention in children<sup>2</sup>. As a conclusion, we need to be more vigilance in treating a child with pain. The symptoms might not be a mere soft tissue injury, but might be a dreading illness.