

# THIGH COMPARTMENT SYNDROME POST INTRAMEDULLARY FEMORAL NAILING

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## INTRODUCTION:

Prevalence of compartment syndrome at thigh is a rare phenomenon compared to leg and forearm as thigh has a larger volume of compartment with more elastic fascia and its connection with gluteal region allows fluid extravasation. Among all the three compartments, anterior compartment is most often affected. Etiologies that potentiate the risk of thigh compartment syndrome are femoral fracture, intramedullary nailing and thigh contusion. We report an uncommon case of thigh compartment syndrome post intramedullary femoral nailing.

## REPORT

A 33-year-old healthy male presented to the emergency department with comminuted fracture of right midshaft femur after road traffic accident. Interlocking nail of the right femur was done after a few days of traction. However, the patient complained of excruciating pain over right thigh after 24 hours of operation. Upon examination, the right thigh appears swollen with a tense compartment over the anterior region. Clinical examination suggestive of right thigh compartment syndrome, and therefore, emergency right thigh fasciotomy was done. Intraoperatively, quadriceps muscle appears swollen and bulging out upon release of fascia. Postoperatively, secondary suturing of the right thigh was done after swelling is resolved and compartments are soft. During clinic visit, he was able to ambulate without limping. Range of motion of right hip and knee was good. Also, muscle strength was similar to the contralateral side. There was no sensory deficit noted.



**Figure 1: Intraoperative wound**



**Figure 2: Plain radiograph of post interlocking nail of right femur - AP[A]; lateral [B]**

## CONCLUSION:

Although thigh compartment syndrome is a rare phenomenon, we should not forget on its possible complication post intramedullary nailing. Early diagnosis and intervention warrant a functional recovery

## REFERENCES:

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