

SKINTED: A Rare & Significant consequence of TKR

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INTRODUCTION:

SKINTED (Surgery of the knee, injury to the infrapatellar branch of saphenous nerve, and traumatic eczematous dermatitis) is a terminology coined to describe specific cutaneous lesion following total knee replacement (TKR). A midline incision is used as standard operating incision, transecting infrapatellar branch of the saphenous nerve. Patients may experience mild paresthesia to complete numbness over lateral knee joint. However, some result in cutaneous manifestation which is also known as SKINTED. Here we will explore this rare skin complication¹.

REPORT:

We present a case of a 60 y/o gentleman who underwent TKR in February 2022. 4 months post-op, patient complained scaly erythematous patch over his left knee. He has no symptoms suggesting of infection and inflammatory parameters were normal. He was referred to dermatology clinic and was treated as dermatitis. Figure 2 shows improvement after starting on topical steroid. Skin returns to normal 6 months post treatment.

Figure 1: 4 months post TKR



Figure 2: 8 months post TKR



CONCLUSION:

SKINTED is part of eczematous dermatitis which leads to erythematous rash and plaques notably 3-6 months post-surgery. Multiple studies revealed that autonomic dysfunction from the release of neuropeptides such as substance P, Neurotensin and vasoactive intestinal peptide during neuro-regeneration as well release of acetylcholine and catecholamine from nerve endings which are all important in maintaining skin barrier, causes delayed hypersensitivity to the skin². Another study supported a theory that cutaneous nerve damage alters the barrier function of the skin leading to trans-epidermal water loss and formation of xerosis which eventually lead to eczematous dermatitis³.

Despite its rare appearance, it is important to inform patient regarding the possibility of this particular complication. Steroid treatment generally results in good outcome.

REFERENCES:

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