

A Rare Case of Total Elbow Arthroplasty in Post Traumatic Elbow Arthritis Suspected Pigmented Villonodular Synovitis / Tuberculosis.

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INTRODUCTION

Total elbow arthroplasty has recently gain popularity with current improved design and surgical technique. Proved to be stable, provide a pain-free elbow and the ability to restore range of motion denotes its diverse applications. Indication include inflammatory joint diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, pigmented villonodular synovitis and infectious arthritis which eventually lead to loss of joint function. Recent years the trend of total elbow arthroplasty has increased in trauma cases.

REPORT:

A 59 year old lady presented with chronic left elbow pain and limited range of motion for five years. Had history of trauma over the left elbow and was not treated . Clinically there were no signs of infections. Inflammatory markers were not raised. She was initially diagnosed with neglected fracture of capitellum with bony lesion over olecranon with arthritis changes, MRI then reported as likely pigmented villonodular synovitis and open biopsy was revealed giant cell reaction. Proceeded with total elbow arthroplasty and synovectomy . Histopathology examination came back as granulomatous inflammation, no malignancy reported .Work up on tuberculosis came back negative. There was post operative ulnar nerve neuropathy, however improved .At eight months follow up patient reported to have good functional outcome.

CONCLUSION:

Elbow arthroplasty can be useful in patients with advanced inflammatory elbow disease. Despite investigations still inconclusive , we decided to proceed with total elbow arthroplasty to increase mobility and reduce joint pain.



Figure 1:Pre-operative x ray, osteolytic lesion of the proximal ulna.

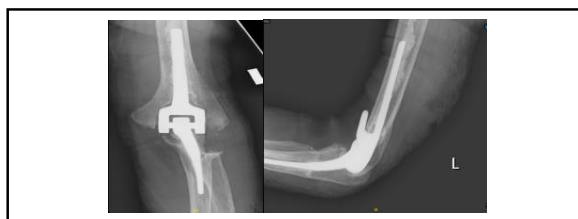


Figure 2:Post operative radiograph.

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