

A Rare Case of Calcaneum Tuberculous Osteomyelitis

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INTRODUCTION:

Tuberculous osteomyelitis is an uncommon occurrence.¹It frequently involves the vertebrae and involvement of calcaneum have not been widely reported. A calcaneum tuberculous osteomyelitis is often missed in achieving diagnosis due to inadequate clinical recognition which is partially attributed to its rarity. We present a case of atypical tuberculous osteomyelitis of calcaneum.

REPORT:

L is a healthy 13-year-old boy came presented with a painless left foot swelling with redness for 1 month. His ankle X-ray shows a significant bone defect over the superior aspect of calcaneum. Osteomyelitis of calcaneum was suspected and an ultrasonography was done which a deep cortical defect with irregular margin was noted at the posterior aspect of the calcaneal body. There was a heterogenous hypoechoic lesion within the defect with numerous echogenic foci which are suggestive of osteomyelitis of calcaneum.

During pre-operative review, there was a left lung consolidation with left pleural effusion on his chest radiograph. The patient denied any pulmonary tuberculosis symptoms. A *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* PCR test was done which came back to be positive. A diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis was made and patient was subsequently started on anti-tuberculous medication. A bone curettage of left calcaneum was done, removing 20cc of caseous material which were indicative of tuberculous osteomyelitis.

DISCUSSION:

Tuberculous osteomyelitis involving the foot is rare and represents <1% of extrapulmonary tuberculosis.¹It can be easily confused with other foot pathologies such as Charcot arthropathy, Haglund deformity and Achilles tendinopathy due to its rarity and slow clinical



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Figure 1: Left foot during presentation

Figure 2: Left foot intraoperative findings

Figure 3: Lateral calcaneal radiograph

onset. In early stages, medical treatment with anti-tuberculosis medication leads to good healing and minimal disability.²

CONCLUSION:

Tuberculous osteomyelitis involving the foot is a rare and easily missed but treatable disease.²It should be suspected in patients presenting with foot swelling and pain, especially in a developing country with significant incidence of tuberculosis.

REFERENCES:

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