

THE GREAT MIMIC: A RARE CASE OF TB WRIST – A CASE REPORT

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INTRODUCTION:

Wrist tuberculosis is a rare disease and a great mimic thus clinical features and radiograph imaging are inconclusive, making it easy to be misdiagnosed, leading to delayed treatment and poor prognosis. We present a case report of a 41-year-old gentleman, presented with multiple swelling over the left hand and wrist. This patient was treated with suspicion of TB as strong demographic and history taking was suggestive. However, despite prompt diagnosis and initiation of treatment patient had reoccurrence of symptom.

REPORT:

A 41 year old Bangladeshi gentleman presented to our centre with a chief complain of multiple swelling over the left hand for the past 6 months. Patient complained of tenderness and reduce in range of motion. Examination noted patient had a swelling over the dorsal aspect of left hand, most prominent over the 4th MCPJ, measuring 2 x 4 cm, with a circumferential margin. Patient's inflammatory markers were significantly raised though patient's wrist nor chest x-ray showed any abnormality. Ultrasound done noted a well-defined hypoechoic collection with mobile debris. An excision biopsy was later done, intraoperative tissue and fluid cultures showed positive of TB, whereby HPE results showing necrotizing granulomatous inflammation. Patient was then started on AKURIT 4, immediately. 2 months post operative patient presented with multiple lesions adjacent to the previous site. MRI was proceeded showing multiple bony erosion of all metacarpal bone, with thenar muscle collection suggestive of tuberculosis arthritis of the left wrist and hand. Patient was then referred to HKL orthopaedic hand team whereby further initiation of tuberculosis treatment was done, with a discussion of possible operative intervention to take place once tuberculosis has been eradicated.

Figure 1: X-ray images

Figure 2: Macroscopic specimen



CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, this case indicates TB can be a great mimic, whereby a prompt diagnosis and treatment can avoid rapid progression of the disease. To add on, clinicians should have high suspicion when addressing acute or chronic lesions over the wrist joint even though tb wrist can be uncommon yet very lethal. Patient's knowledge over the illness also plays a major role in treatment as the treatment for TB takes a long duration and patients' compliance is key.

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