

## CORRELATION BETWEEN LRINEC SCORE WITH CT SCAN IN DIFFERENTIATING CELLULITIS FROM NECROTIZING FASCITIS : A CASE REPORT

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### INTRODUCTION:

Early recognition of necrotizing fasciitis is important because it is a surgical emergency. However, presentation of severe cellulitis can sometimes mimic necrotizing fasciitis. Recently shows radiological findings were more significant than the laboratory risk indicator LRINEC.

### REPORT:

56 years old lady, with underlying of diabetes melitus, hypertension and chronic kidney disease presented with a complaint of right leg swelling for 1 week. The swelling was from the leg up until mid thigh. It was associated with fever, reduce oral intake, lethargic and unable to walk. There are multiple bullous over the leg. On examination, the patient look emaciated. Examination of the right lower extremity reveals generalized swelling that is painful from the leg to the thigh. Multiple blisters over the lateral and medial thigh, necrotic patch over the leg however no crepitus (figure 1). The xray shows no gas shadows. During this initial presentation, LRINEC score was 12 points (figure 2). Despite the high LRINEC score, our clinical examination revealed the opposite. A contrast CT scan of the patient revealed extensive subcutaneous oedema, no fascial thickening and no collection seen. She was started with intravenous Piperacillin and Tazobactam. The antibiotic was changed to meropenam on the fourth day of admission because the swelling had not decreased and the septic parameter had not improved. The patient responded well, and the swelling reduced and blood parameters improved. She was discharged on the seventh day of her hospitalization.

**Figure 1: Clinical picture of right lower limb**



**Figure 2: LRINEC SCORE**

Blood investigation		LRINEC POINTS
WCC(x10,000/ $\mu$ L)	42	2
HB(g/dL)	8.4	2
CRP (mg/L)	195	4
CREATININE( $\mu$ mol/L)	639	2
NA(mEq/L)	129	2
GLUCOSE (10 mmol/L)	6.2	0
Total LRINEC score		12

### CONCLUSION:

The LRINEC score can be used as a guide to distinguished between necrotizing fasciitis and cellulitis. However, CT scan has proven to be a good additional imaging to rule out necrotizing fasciitis

### REFERENCES:

1.Bruls RJM, Kwee RM. CT in necrotizing soft tissue infection: diagnostic criteria and comparison with LRINEC score. Eur Radiol. 2021;31(11):8536-8541. doi:10.1007/s00330-021-08005-6