

TUBERCULOSIS ELBOW WITH SUPERIMPOSED BACTERIAL INFECTION

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INTRODUCTION:

Worldwide, Tuberculosis(TB) is a serious public health issue that affects people of all ages. It is an opportunistic infection that can affect people separately or in combination with other infections. A rare extra-pulmonary manifestation of tuberculosis, elbow tuberculosis is an inflammation and destruction of the synovial lining of the elbow joint caused by chronic tuberculosis.

REPORT:

15-year-old boy presented post trauma 3 weeks with non healing wounds with seropurulent discharge at left elbow. Initially sustained injury while working with his father. Seek medical attention done bedside wound debridement and discharged with oral antibiotics. Due to his wound conditions not improving had visit in our facility. On examination noted multiple wounds around elbow medial and lateral with seropurulent discharge. Surrounding wounds punctuated and tender with raised inflammatory markers. Range of movement elbow limited to 70-90degree in flexion. Radiograph noted osteolytic bone lesions with elbow joint destruction.

Subsequently underwent wound debridements over left elbow noted caseous material and slough from elbow joint with distal humerus bone friable with pus discharge. Arthrotomy washout performed and samples obtained. Intraoperative tissue culture *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa* and TB gene expert detected *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*. Counselling infectious disease expert and started with Tazosin for two weeks and initiated Anti Tuberculosis Therapy(ATT).

The wounds clinically improved and able to achieve elbow flexion 60-100degree in subsequent follow up.

Figure 1: Wound prior to debridement



Figure 2: Left elbow radiograph



CONCLUSION:

There are many diagnostic and therapeutic challenges that must be overcome when dealing with tuberculosis elbow. Clinically, tuberculosis elbow has an insidious and nonspecific presentation, making diagnosis challenging, and a delay in diagnosis can result in irreversible joint damage. Monoarthritis accompanied by poor wound healing may be indicative of TB elbow. In addition, tuberculosis elbow must be managed through a multimodal approach that includes the administration of antituberculous drugs, surgical debridement, and joint reconstruction procedures.

REFERENCES:

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