

Rare Complication Post Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction

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INTRODUCTION:

Anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction (ACL-R) is a very common surgical procedure. Various study reported good outcome with a return to pre injury level of activity ranging 75 to 97%. Complications that have been described including infection, hemarthrosis, pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis.

REPORT:

A 22 years old Man underwent ACL-R of right lower limb with hamstring autograft. Surgery was uneventful. However, at 3 weeks post operative, he complained of unilateral swelling of right lower limb associated with redness. The redness increases in standing position, and fade away in supine position. Examination noted plethoric appearance of right lower limb upon standing erect, extending from knee up to foot. Both the posterior tibial artery and dorsalis pedis artery pulses were good and comparable to contralateral side. Ankle brachial systolic index was 1.35 for right foot, 1.32 for the left foot.

Urgent ultrasound doppler of right lower limb was performed to exclude collection/ deep vein thrombosis. There was no sonographic evidence of right lower limb deep vein thrombosis, but reported of features of right sapheno-popliteal junction incompetency.

Computed tomography angiography (CTA) was also carried out and it showed that no stenosis or wall calcifications of the abdominal aorta, common and external iliac as well as the lower limb arteries.

He was on monitoring and regular physiotherapy. The swelling and redness of the right lower limb gradually resolves over 5 months post operative.

There is a scarcity of report on discolored lower limb post ACL-R and in relation to sapheno-popliteal junction incompetency.



Figure 1 &2: Plethoric appearance of right lower limb

CONCLUSION:

There are uncommon complications post ACL-R. Serious complication such as DVT need to be ruled out after all. Observation is the treatment of choice for this condition.

REFERENCES:

1. Palazzolo A et al; Knee Committee SIGASCOT. Uncommon Complications after Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction. *Joints*. 2018 Nov 30;6(3):188-203. doi: 10.1055/s-0038-1675799. PMID: 30582108; PMCID: PMC6301892.