

THIGH COMPARTMENT SYNDROME WITHOUT FRACTURE : TOUCH OF SURGEON.

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INTRODUCTION:

Thigh compartment syndrome (TCS) is a rare but potentially devastating condition, in which the pressure within the osseofascial compartment rises above the capillary perfusion gradient, resulting in impaired local circulation, muscle ischaemia and eventually necrosis

REPORT:

16 years old boy was brought to emergency department following a road traffic accident with complain of severe pain over left thigh and unable to ambulate. Otherwise there was no other injury. Other history was unremarkable. Physical examination reveals left thigh swollen and tense, woody hard in consistency, limited range of motion due to pain. Otherwise no external wound was noticed, distal pulses was palpable and comparable to contralateral side, sensation intact. X-ray shows no obvious fracture. Blood investigation were normal with no evidence of coagulopathy or any blood dyscrasias.

Following clinical judgment, we proceeded with emergency fasciotomy about 4 hours post trauma. Intraoperatively, upon fascia release, muscle of anterior compartment bulging with collection of hematoma evacuated surrounding quadriceps muscle. Postoperatively, dressing done with normal saline and jelonet dressing. Subsequently the swelling reduce and proceed with delayed primary closure about 10 days post compartment release. Patient then was discharge well, and no complication notice during follow up at our clinic.

Figure 1: xray left femur

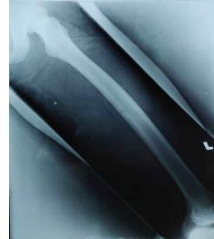


Figure 2: intraoperative muscle bulge



Figure 3: delayed closure



CONCLUSION:

Thigh compartment syndrome without fracture are very rare condition. Referral of swollen limbs without fracture for an orthopaedic opinion should not be delayed and immediate clinical judgement and treatment are of the essence.

REFERENCES:

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