

Isolated tuberculous tenosynovitis of the forearm in an immunocompetent patient

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Abstract

Primary tuberculous tenosynovitis is a rare manifestation of extraspinal musculoskeletal tuberculosis. The diagnosis may be easily delayed because of its nonspecific clinical signs. We report a case of culture-proven tuberculous tenosynovitis of the extensor carpi ulnaris tendon and common extensor tendon in a 68-year-old female without concomitant pulmonary tuberculosis, nor documented immunodeficiency. The diagnosis was initially overlooked due to the lack of appropriate histological and bacteriological analyses and the lesion recurred after surgery. MR imaging represents the most accurate method in making the diagnosis, but has no diagnostic specificity in regard to tuberculosis, therefore surgical biopsy is strongly recommended. The patient had a favorable clinical response after a combination of excision and appropriate antituberculous therapy for sensitive *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. We emphasize the need for an increased awareness and high index of suspicion of tuberculosis in all cases of a chronic or recurrent abscess in the extremities, not only in patients living in endemic areas but also in those who have emigrated from regions with a high prevalence of tuberculosis.

Key words: forearm tenosynovitis, tuberculosis

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