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Clinical-Medical Image

A Rare Case of Radial Nerve Entrapment

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Figure 1: Subcutaneous petrous nodules in the right forearm of the patient.

Figure 2: Plain film radiograph of her right forearm.

Figure 3: Plain film radiograph of the pelvis demonstrated diffuse soft tissue calcification.

Clinical-Medical Image

A 78-year-old female, with a past history of dermatomiosytis, presented with a 2-month progressive loss of strength in the extension of her right wrist and fingers associated with hypoesthesia on the posterior compartment of the forearm and right hand. On examination, multiple petrous subcutaneous nodules were palpable on her right upper limb-mostly on posterior compartment of her arm and forearm (Figure 1). The palpation was not painful and no inflammatory signs were detected. An electroneuromyography was performed, which documented a subacute, sensorimotor right radial neuropathy, moderate in severity, located in the distal half of the right arm. X-ray documented an extensive and diffuse soft tissue calcification on her right forearm (Figure 2), abdomen and lower limbs (Figure 3).

Calcinosis cutis is a rare connective tissue disorder characterized by an abnormal deposition of insoluble calcium in the skin, subcutaneous tissues, muscles and tendons. It can occur in isolation but is frequently associated with many autoimmune conditions, namely dermatomiosytis or systemic sclerosis, and is commonly associated with functional disability. Even when there is diffuse involvement of subcutaneous and fibrous structures (calcinosis universalis), peripheral nerve entrapment caused by these calcified nodules is extremely rare.

Keywords: Calcinosis; Peripheral nerve entrapment; Rehabilitation; Rheumatologic diseases

Informed Consent

Patient gave written informed consent to publication of this case report.

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Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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