

A RARE CASE OF DIABETIC CHARCOT NEUROARTHROPATHY OF THE HAND

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Introduction: Charcot neuroarthropathy is a chronic, degenerative condition and is associated with decreased sensorial innervation. Diabetes mellitus is one of the most common etiological factor for charcot neuroarthropathy which typically affects ankles and small joints of feet. Charcot neuroarthropathy seen in upper extremity in diabetic patients is a rare clinical condition. In this report, we presented a case of charcot neuroarthropathy of the hand.

Discussion: 48 years old right hand dominant gentleman was admitted to hospital in 2020 with right hand pain and swelling since last six months. The patient also complained stiffness of right wrist and difficulty in grasping and gripping objects in the hand. There was no history of previous trauma or constitutional symptoms. Examination of right hand revealed tenderness, swelling with pus discharged over dorsum aspect of right hand. There was wasting of the right hand intrinsic muscle with no evidence of peripheral vascular disease. Radiograph findings revealed severe degenerative arthritis of the wrist with multiple acute fractures to the carpal and metacarpal bone.

Conclusion: In conclusion, charcot neuroarthropathy of the hand is a rare disorder and correct diagnosis is possible by careful physical and neurological examination and pathological evaluation when needed. In order not to miss the diagnosis, the orthopedic surgeon should be aware of the characteristic clinical and radiological signs of this rare condition.