

CASE REPORT TITLE: RARE PRESENTATION OF OSTEOMYELITIS-UNICORTICAL OSTEOMYELITIS

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Introduction: Osteomyelitis is infection of bone and frequently seeds in trabeculae area affecting both bone and bone marrow. It normally presents with chronic central bone abscess features. Unicortical osteomyelitis is a rare presentation, whereby it commonly occurs in age group between 10-20 years old. The diagnosis can only be made after excluding other possible causes of intracortical bone pathology which is more common.

Discussion: A 13 year old boy presented with pain and swelling over proximal third right leg. Patient had trauma over 5 months ago. Initially presented with serous discharge over the affected site. He had history of taking antibiotic from general practitioner. After 5 months, complain of persistent pain and swelling over the site. General examination was normal, whereas the local examination showed pain and swelling over proximal third of left leg. The inflammatory/infection markers within normal range. The radiograph showed lytic cortical associated with long segment cortical thickening at anterior medial of left proximal tibia. It is associated with minimal adjacent soft tissue swelling. The MRI reported as unicortical chronic osteomyelitis. Excision biopsy was plan and the disease part of tibia excised out. Macroscopically, only unicortical involvement. The Histopathological examination reported acute on chronic osteomyelitis. Patient had symptomatic relief post operation and antibiotic.

Conclusion: Unicortical abscess is a rare presentation of bone abscess. Diagnosing unicortical abscess can be challenging, as the clinical radiological finding may favor diagnosis such as osteoid osteoma and osteosarcoma. After extensive literature review, only limited references are available for this rare presentation osteomyelitis.