Isolated Foot Drop Post Covid-19 Infection

[1]Ruqnuddin AHR, [1]Tan YY
[1]Department of Orthopaedic and Traumatology, Hospital Sungai Buloh, Selangor, Malaysia.

INTRODUCTION:

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) defined as infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). COVID- 19 infection may lead to severe acute respiratory distress which required intensive care unit (ICU) admission. Prone position widely used to treat mechanically ventilated patient with respiratory failure. Prolonged ICU admission may cause prolonged immobilization which lead to entrapment syndrome for patient as well.[1] In this case report, we presenting an isolated case of COVID-19 patient with foot drop.

REPORT:

47 years old gentleman with underlying hypertension, dyslipidemia and obesity presented to hospital with severe acute respiratory syndrome. Patient was tested positive COVID-19 infection and admitted to hospital. Patient subsequently admitted to ICU and was put on prone and supination position multiple times during this period to improve oxygenation. After extubated, noted that patient have right foot drop which does not presented during beginning of illness. He also complaint of numbness over right leg.

After patient out from life threatening condition, nerve conduction study was done. Result shows that patient had right common peroneal nerve palsy. He was treated accordingly and discharge from hospital. During follow up we noticed that patient recovered well and no longer having foot drop.

DISCUSSION:

Apart from common respiratory symptoms, COVD-19 infection also may cause myopathy or neuropathy symptoms. Although it is not widely reported, these symptoms should be considered as one of COVID-19 manifestations. In our case, it is believed that this patient had neuropathy due to cycles of positioning (supine and prone) while being treated in intensive care unit.

CONCLUSION:

Thorough clinical examination and electrophysiological studies is important to rule out entrapment causes. Proper padding and right placement may ensure crucial areas are free from pressure. Further studies required to determine if neuropathy in COVID-19 infection may cause by neurotropic effects of the virus.

REFERENCES:

1. Telemez R et al., Bilateral Foot Drop After COVID-19 Related Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: A Case Report, Turkish Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 2021 Sep; 67(3): 378-381