Surgical Site Infection Mimicking Malignancy - A Rare Case Report

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INTRODUCTION:

Distal femur fractures (DFFs) are relatively uncommon but severe in orthopedics trauma, comprising approximately 8.7% of all femoral fractures.[1] Overall incidence of Surgical site infection (SSI) post DFFs surgery is 6%.[1]

REPORT:

A 58 years old man, came to emergency department with the complaint of pain and diffused swelling over left lower limb for 10 days which was rapidly increasing in size. He also presented with fever, loss of appetite, loss of weight and unable to weight bear.

He had recently sustained a closed pathological fracture of distal femur after alleged motor vehicle accident. Open reduction and plating of left femur was performed 6 months ago and it was uneventful.

However, patient was defaulted for 3 months post operation due to logistic issue as he stays in rural area, approximately 3 hours away from our centre.

Upon clinical examination, there was pseudoparalysis of the left lower limb with gross swelling from the thigh extending distally to below knee area with multiple dilated veins.

Plain radiograph showed multiple lytic lesions over the distal femur and proximal tibia with no loosening of implants.

Patient was warded and scheduled for further workout. However, the swelling became abscess and spontaneously ruptured.

Incision and drainage was performed and intra-operative culture grew *Staphylococcus Aureus*, and currently patient is treating as resolving septic delayed union.

Figure 1: Initial presentation photo showed gross swelling left thigh and knee with multiple dilated veins. Post incision and drainage, Left thigh and knee swelling reducing in size.

Figure 2: Plain radiograph left knee showed oblique fracture distal femur with multiple cysts over distal femur and proximal tibia

Figure 3: Plain radiograph of left knee (6 months post plating), revealed no implant loosening with fracture line visible

CONCLUSION:

High index of suspicious of infection is necessary so early treatment can be started.

REFERENCES:

1. Zhu, C. (2021). Incidence and predictors of surgical site infection after distal femur fractures treated by open reduction and internal fixation: A prospective single-center study.