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Unexpectedly Enormous Intraarticular Tophaceous Gout During Total Knee Arthroplasty : A Case Report

[1]M Hafizuddin AS

[1]Department Orthopedic, Hospital Sultanah Bahiyyah.

INTRODUCTION:

Total knee arthroplasty is a popular procedure for all forms of arthritis, including persistent gouty arthritis. Gout portrays variably on radiographs at different stages, and it typically comes along with tophi and joint degenerative changes, making it challenging for the surgeon to determine the exact size of the tophi. We report a case of unexpectedly massive intraarticular tophaceous gout during total knee arthroplasty.

REPORT:

A 70-year-old man with underlying hypertension, diabetes, and gout came to the arthroplasty unit with complaints of worsening left knee pain. He suffered a motor vehicle accident ten years ago requiring plating over his left proximal tibia. On Examination, no obvious swelling. Knee was in varus deformity 20 degree, not correctable and range of motion(ROM) 15-120 degree(figure 1). The patient was scheduled for complete knee arthroplasty.

Surprisingly, during surgery, an extensive tophi forms across the suprapatellar area. We successfully removed a tophi measuring around 8cm x 8cm x 5cm(Figure 2). The procedure took longer than normal due to the extensive spread of the tophi. The mechanical axis and joint line were successfully restored.

On post-operative day 2, the patient was able to stand and ambulate using a walking frame. His left knee's range of motion (ROM) was 0 to 120 degrees.

However, after a week, he was readmitted due to wound breakdown. Fortunately, we were able to treat the wound with antibiotics and a daily dressing.

Figure 1:

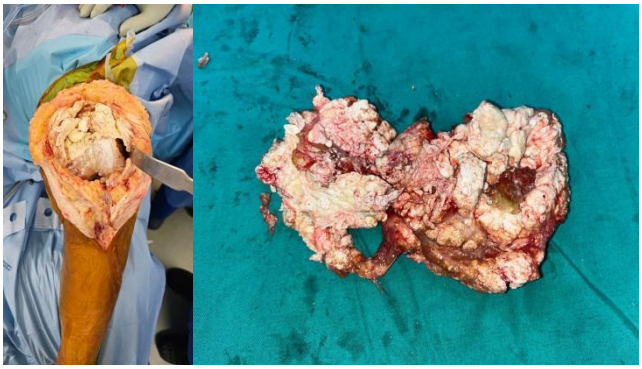

Figure 2

CONCLUSION:

Patients with gout have higher risks of postoperative complications and prolonged surgery time. Anticipating the size of the tophi will minimize needless intraoperative complications. Thus a proper evaluation of the extent of the gouty tophi using MRI as well as preoperative optimization is necessary for a better outcome.

REFERENCES:

1. Buruian, Alexei et al. “Advanced Erosive Gouty Arthropathy of the Knee.” Cureus vol. 16,1 e51432. 1 Jan. 2024, doi:10.7759/cureus.51432