

A Rare Cutaneous Complication after a Total Knee Replacement (SKINTED)

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INTRODUCTION:

Surgery of the Knee, injury to the INfrapatellar branch of the saphenous nerve, Traumatic Eczematous Dermatitis (SKINTED) is a rare localized dermatitis associated with total knee replacement (TKR) surgery. Damage inflicted to the nerve resulted in sensory disturbances to innervated skin which also predisposes to dermatitis. This condition is often unrecognized as typically occurs two weeks postoperatively or secondary bacterial infection developed, hindering early detection. Herein, we report a case of SKINTED to familiarize this complication for early detection and accurate management.

REPORT:

A 68-year-old lady, presented with painful and itchy skin lesions of right knee, 4 months following TKR for knee osteoarthritis. She complained of right knee pain associated with skin rash denying any prior history of dermatitis or allergy. Examination revealed well demarcated, scaly lesion at lateral aspect of surgical incision with excoriation mark. There was localized tenderness at Gerdy's tubercle however no limitation in range of motion. There was no evidence suggestive of local infection as well. Other systems examinations were unremarkable. X-ray of the right knee appeared normal without signs of implant loosening. She was initially referred to the dermatologist and treated for fungal infection however lesions worsened. After 7 months postoperatively, diagnosis of SKINTED was proposed. She was referred to Dermatology and was prescribed topical emollients and potent topical corticosteroid cream resulting in significant clinical improvement. At 12 months follow-up much of the lesion has subsided with residual symptoms, leaving an area of hyperpigmentation.



Figure 1: 4 months PO Figure 2: 12 months PO

CONCLUSION:

SKINTED is a rare complication reported following TKR surgery as it is under-recognized. It is vital to identify this condition for early prevention and advocate of patients to prevent unnecessary concern. Early timely dermatological referral may bring satisfactory outcomes by recognizing this rare cutaneous manifestation.

REFERENCES:

1. Nazeer, M., Ravindran, R., & et.al (2020). Skinted: A rare complication after total knee arthroplasty. *Arthroplasty Today*, 6(4), 1028-1032.