

## Pathological Fracture of the Distal Femur Secondary to Plasmablastic Lymphoma: A Rare Presentation of a Rare Type of Lymphoma

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### INTRODUCTION:

Plasmablastic lymphoma is a rare and aggressive type of B-cell lymphoma associated with HIV infection, and its common presentation is extra-nodal at the oral cavity and gastrointestinal tract. Rarely, it may primarily present at the bone, mimicking a primary bone sarcoma or an osteomyelitis. Here, we present one such case.

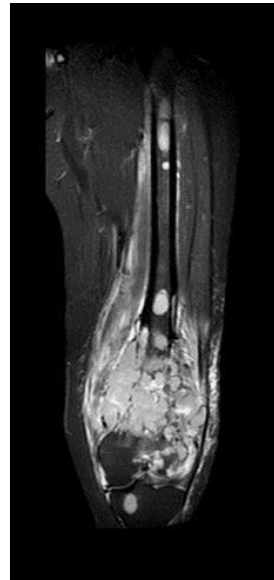
### REPORT:

A 30-year-old man with untreated congenital HIV infection had a fracture of the lateral condyle of the left femur 15 years ago for which plate osteosynthesis was done. He presented 13 years later with swelling and pain of the left knee with radiographs showing osteomyelitic changes. The implant was removed, and he was started on antibiotics, but the swelling and pain persisted.

MRI showed presence of tumor at the left distal femur with skip lesions at the shaft and large soft tissue component at the old fracture site. Biopsy disclosed plasmablastic lymphoma. He was treated with chemotherapy with the limb protected from weight bearing. After completion of chemotherapy, repeated radiographs showed consolidation of the bone. The patient unable to ambulate due to tremor post chemotherapy effect, but swelling resolved with good range of motion of the left knee.

### CONCLUSION:

In an immunocompromised patient, lymphoproliferative disorder should always be considered as a differential diagnosis as the treatment is vastly different from a primary bone tumor or an osteomyelitis. Bone lesions secondary to lymphomas respond well to chemotherapy without the need of surgical resection and reconstruction.



**Figure 1:** MRI image: aggressive soft tissue and bony lesion over distal femur.



**Figure 2:** Xray left knee: post (right) and pre (left) chemotherapy.

### REFERENCES:

1. Castillo JJ, Reagan JL. Plasmablastic lymphoma: a systematic review. *Scientific World J* 2011; 11:687– 696.