

A Case of Chronic Morel Lavallee Lesion

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INTRODUCTION:

A Morel-Lavallee Lesion (MLL) is a close traumatic soft tissue degloving injury characterized by separation of the dermis from the underlying fascia due to a shearing force¹. Despite being commonly seen in high velocity trauma, a high degree index of suspicion is needed to diagnose MLL even in cases with no fractures involved. Cases of untreated MLL during acute stage may result in local inflammation, leading to pseudocapsules formation and possibly a secondary infection².

This is a case of a 17-year-old, morbid obese patient with undiagnosed MLL who presented to our clinic with chronic left thigh swelling of three months duration, following a trauma. During her initial casualty presentation immediately post trauma, a diagnosis of soft tissue injury left thigh was made. The diagnosis of MLL was not established. However, throughout three months patient had persistent left thigh swelling with worsening pain, affecting her ambulation. Aspiration of the swelling was done during at our clinic, however swelling recur 2 days after that. CT imaging shows left prepatellar collection with surrounding inflammation and edema. She underwent incision and drainage and sclerosant injection. Continuous vacuum suction dressing was applied postoperatively. Growth of staphylococcus aureus obtained.

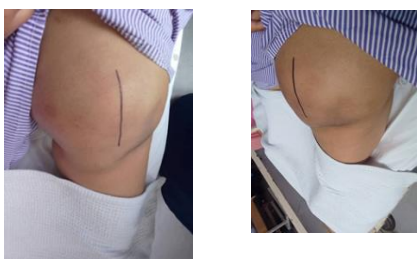


Figure 1: Preoperative pictures



Figure 2: Post-operative picture

CONCLUSION:

MLL is an internal degloving soft tissue injury that occurs immediately or on a delayed onset after a trauma. There is up to 33% of lesions are missed at the time of injury and chronic lesions may lead to cosmetic issues³. MLL should be considered if imaging studies support the presence of separation of subcutaneous layer from the underlying fascia. If being diagnosed earlier, the lesion can be treated conservatively with compressive therapy or percutaneous drainage.³

REFERENCES

- 1, 2: Scolaro et al. (2016). The Morel-Lavallée Lesion: Diagnosis and Management. *Journal of the AAOS* <https://doi.org/10.5435/JAAOS-D-15-00181>
- 3: Remien et al. (2023). Delayed Onset of Pediatric Morel-Lavallée Lesion: A Case Report. <https://doi.org/10.13107/jocr.2023.v13.i07.3748>