

Exploring “Foot Pearl”: A Case Report Of Tumoral Calcinosis In Kuala Krai District

¹Amin AS; ²Mohd Rifhan Syahmi MR; ³Khazran H; ⁴Surianty S; ⁵Zainul A
Department of orthopedic Hospital Sultan Ismail Petra Kuala Krai Kelantan Malaysia.

INTRODUCTION:

Neoplasms are characterized by abnormal and excessive tissue proliferation, often displaying uncoordinated growth relative to the surrounding normal structures. Tumoral calcinosis is a rare hereditary disorder of phosphate metabolism, leading to extensive periarticular calcification within extracapsular soft tissues. This condition most commonly manifests as palpable masses around major joints, particularly the hips and shoulders. Here, we present a case of tumoral calcinosis masquerading as gouty arthritis, encountered in a district healthcare center.

REPORT:

In March 2023, a 71-year-old Malay male presented with a five-year history of chronic ankle pain, exacerbated by prolonged ambulation. Due to his occupation as an ambulance driver, he had never sought medical attention, attributing his symptoms to occupational strain. Upon referral to our center, radiographic evaluation revealed multiple calcified, tumor-like masses over the plantar aspect of the right foot. Remarkably, despite the striking radiographic findings, the patient reported no pain or discomfort at the affected site. On physical examination, multiple bony-hard swellings were palpable, yet they did not significantly impair his daily function. Despite extensive counseling on the need for further evaluation and management, the patient declined additional workup and follow-up.



Figure 1: Radiograph of lateral view right ankle



Figure 2: Radiograph of Antero-posterior view right ankle

CONCLUSION:

Tumoral calcinosis may present with overlapping features of synovial osteochondromatosis, gouty arthritis, or myositis ossificans, posing a diagnostic challenge. A thorough history, clinical examination, imaging, and histopathological analysis are essential for definitive diagnosis. This case highlights the critical role of effective patient-physician communication in facilitating further diagnostic workup and optimizing patient outcomes.

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