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A Pounding Foot Wound: Mycotic Pseudoaneurysm in a Digital Artery of The Foot

[1,2]Khirul Ashar, NA; [1]Paul, AG; [1]Chia, YH; [1]Seng, CM; [2]Alsagoff, SNA; [2]A Shuhiamy, NN
[1]Orthopaedic Department, Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
[2]Orthopaedic & Traumatology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Sungai Buloh, Selangor

INTRODUCTION:

A mycotic pseudoaneurysm develops when partial thickness destruction of the arterial wall results in the ballooning of the vessel. This condition can be triggered by trauma, followed by a superimposed infection, or infection may occur initially, leading to the weakening of the vessel wall. We are presenting a case of this rare condition involving the digital artery of the foot.

REPORT:

A 57-year-old woman with a history of left first toe ray amputation four years ago presented with a 6-month history of a wound on the plantar aspect of the ipsilateral foot. Recently, the wound had been increasing in size and was associated with pulsation and contact bleeding; however, she has no constitutional symptoms.

Figure 1: Clinical picture of left foot.

Examination of the left foot revealed swelling on the plantar aspect of the second metatarsophalangeal joint. The lesion had a smooth surface with minimal bleeding. It was non-tender but pulsatile, with pus discharge at the wound's edge.

An X-ray of the left foot showed no significant findings, while the white cell count and C-reactive protein were elevated. Blood cultures grew *Acinetobacter baumannii*. The suspicion of an underlying benign vascular tumor, which was infected, led to urgent CT angiography. The imaging confirmed a pseudoaneurysm arising from the medial plantar digital artery supplying the left second toe.

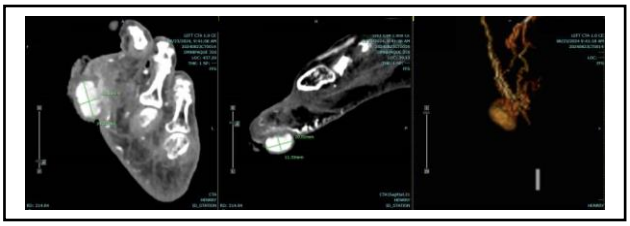

Figure 2: CT Angiogram of left foot.

She underwent ligation and excision of the mycotic pseudoaneurysm, and the histopathological diagnosis confirmed the pseudoaneurysm. She completed a course of intravenous antibiotics for bacteremia. Post-operatively, she was prescribed an offloading shoe. The wound healed well within 2 months.

CONCLUSION:

Diabetic foot ulcers, which often present with similar symptoms, can easily obscure the true nature of the condition, leading to potential misdiagnosis and delayed treatment. Early recognition and accurate diagnosis are crucial to preventing more serious complications and ensuring appropriate management.

REFERENCES:

1. Sánchez-Saba JE, et al. Digital artery pseudoaneurysm. Case report and systematic review of the literature. Acta Ortop Mex. 2023 May-Jun;37(3):177-182.