SYNOSTOSIS; AN UNREPORTED COMPLICATION OF CHRONIC OSTEOMYELITIS – AN UNUSUAL CASE REPORT

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Abstract

Chronic osteomyelitis is a well known problem, which represents the chronic inflammatory condition of infective etiology affecting the bone and bone marrow for more than 6 weeks usually lasting for months or more, due to wide variety of organisms including pyogenic, tubercular, fungal and parasitic. Also included in the diagnosis of chronic osteomyelitis is any recurrent osteomyelitis (1). Here, systemic symptoms usually have subsided, but one or more foci in the bone still contain purulent material, infected granulation tissue, or a sequestrum (2).

It is known to cause various complications. Those, which are commonly described and found being growth disturbances in the extremities, limb deformities, septic arthritis & stiffness of the adjacent joints, pathological fractures of long bones and squamous cell skin carcinoma arising from the tract of the chronically discharging sinus. Here, we are presenting a case of synostosis in a patient of chronic osteomyelitis of the forefoot following some foreign body penetration in childhood. Although, various other unusual complications of chronic osteomyelitis have been described, synostosis occurring in such cases has never been described as evident from the search of the literature.

Key words- Chronic osteomyelitis, Synostosis, Complications of chronic osteomyelitis