Localized Acral Hypertrophy

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35-year-old male presented with complaints of a progressive increase in the size of his right thumb. There was a significant increase in subcutaneous tissue, which was most prominent on the palmar aspect. He was experiencing difficulty in his day-to-day work due to restricted movement. There was no history of trauma, infection, or a family history suggestive of neurofibromatosis or any similar disease. He had undergone surgery two years prior for similar complaints in the index finger. Plain

radiograph of the hand [Figure 1] was advised following this magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the right hand was preformed to confirm the diagnosis and assess the disease status [Figure 2].

A plain X-ray of the hand of another patient with similar complaints in the middle finger showed increased lengths of metacarpals and phalanges of the middle finger with prominent soft tissue and is shown in Figure 3.





Figure 1: (a) Clinical photograph showing localised enlargement of thumb with postoperative changes in index finger. **(b)** X-ray imaging of the hand shows hypertrophy of soft tissue and bone with mushroom shaped terminal phalanx. Secondary degenerative changes are seen early in the involved digit.

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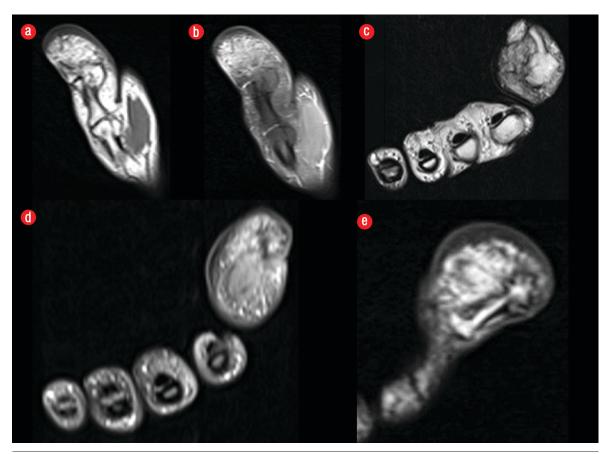


Figure 2: Magnetic resonance imaging of the fingers. (a) T1-weighted imaging shows proliferation of the fibro-fatty tissue of the thumb. (b and d) Proton Density fat saturated image confirms the fatty nature. (c) T2-weighted imaging shows osteophyte formation with fibro-fatty proliferation. (a-d) The associated bony changes are seen. (e) Mushrooming of the terminal phalanx is also seen.



Figure 3: X-ray imaging of the hand of another patient shows hypertrophy of soft tissue and bone of middle finger with advanced degenerative changes in the involved digits.

Questions

- 1. What is the diagnosis?
- 2. Name the commonly associated nerve pathology with this condition?

Anwers to the quiz, and the full article, can be found online at www.omjournal.org.