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Osteoid Osteoma of the Pisiform, Leading to Misdiagnosis

Gokhan KAYNAK¹, Mehmet Fatih GUVEN¹, Ozan Ali ERDAL¹, Muharrem BABACAN¹, Sergulen DERVISOGLU¹

¹) ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY CERRAHPASA MED. FAC., Turkey

Background:

Osteoid osteoma (OO) is an uncommon benign bone-forming tumor of the musculoskeletal system with uncertain etiology but it is the most common primary bone tumor of the carpal region, although much less frequently seen in the upper extremity. The most commonly involved carpal bones are scaphoid and capitate. OO of the pisiform has been reported only twice in literature. In this paper we present a rare case of OO of the pisiform which had not been detected in all diagnostic studies before the ultimate diagnosis was made 8 months later with the same diagnostic modalities and similar clinical signs.

Case:

Our case is a 19 year-old male who had admitted to our institution with wrist pain. He had been evaluated clinically with imaging studies like MRI, CT scans and radiographies for 8 months before the diagnosis was made with the same imaging modalities for the second time. During the 8 months period he received conservative treatment for several provisional diagnoses like triangular fibrocartilage complex injury and arthritis, meanwhile none of the imaging studies showed a mass in the pisiform apart from medullary edema.

Conclusion:

We presented a case of OO with absence of any detectable mass apart from medullary edema in the pisiform for about 8 months. After 8 months of follow-up, diagnosis of a newly formed OO in the pisiform was made as the source of complaints. Therefore, in cases with long standing ulnar wrist pain, even if diagnostic studies are inconclusive, one should consider osteoid osteoma in differential diagnosis and continue following the patient regularly in case an osteoid osteoma may become visible in the carpal region.

E-mail (main author): kaynak95@hotmail.com