

Severe Adult-Onset Calcinosis in a Patient with a History of Juvenile Dermatomyositis

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Calcific deposits develop in 20%–40%¹ of children with juvenile dermatomyositis (JDM); however, calcinosis is a rare feature in adults with dermatomyositis^{2,3}. In adults, calcification often presents as firm subcutaneous nodules that are frequently most prominent around sites of repeated microtrauma, such as elbows, knees, buttocks, and hands. Calcification of muscles is frequently asymptomatic and observed as an incidental finding in radiographs. Our case illustrates a rare finding of adult-onset severe calcinosis in JDM. These calcifications, apart from the aesthetic deformity, limit the range of movement of extremities and predispose to skin ulceration and superinfections.

A 46-year-old man presented with subcutaneous indurated masses. He had a history of severe JDM since the age of 6 years, with partial response to corticosteroid treatment. Examination revealed multiple large subcutaneous calcific deposits in both upper and lower extremities. Calcium deposits had first been noted at age 27 years on the flexor surfaces of the arms and thighs; at that time he denied concurrent muscle weakness. Over the years, these deposits

enlarged and caused discomfort and limitation of range of movement (Figure 1). Plain radiographs of the upper and lower extremities revealed areas of soft-tissue calcifications. Bone imaging with ^{99m}Tc revealed increased uptake of radionuclide in the soft tissues of both thighs, both calves, and right upper arm, while the skeleton revealed no areas of increased uptake. Magnetic resonance imaging revealed widespread replacement of muscle tissue with cystic areas containing mural and nodular calcifications.

REFERENCES

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Figure 1. Enlarged calcium deposits caused discomfort and limitation of range of movement.

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