

Chronic Venous Insufficiency and Dystrophic Subcutaneous Calcification

Insuficiência Venosa Crônica e Calcínose Cutânea Distrófica



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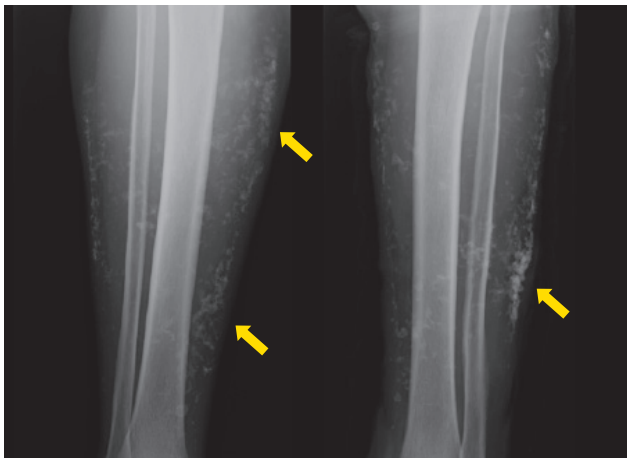


Figure 1 – Leg radiography showing subcutaneous calcification (arrows)

Figure 2 – Chronic ulcer with subcutaneous white calcifications (arrows)

A 76-year old woman was referred to the internal medicine department for subcutaneous calcifications on her legs (Fig. 1). She had a history of chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) of the lower extremities with chronic ulcerative lesions. The physical examination showed induration of the legs and subcutaneous white calcifications (Fig. 2). The patient had no other associated illnesses and had normal levels of parathyroid hormone, calcium, phosphorus, serum creatinine and 25-hydroxycholecalciferol. The immunological study for scleroderma, antiphospholipid

antibodies and the serum cryoglobulins was normal. No evidence of neoplasm was found. CVI was confirmed on Doppler ultrasonography and the histological examination of the ulcer showed dystrophic calcification. CVI promotes the deposition of calcium phosphate in the tissues.^{1,2} Calcium deposits cause persistent inflammatory reaction and lead to leg ulcer recurrences which increase the risk of further calcium salt deposition.^{3,4} Our patient underwent analgesic treatment and started hyperbaric oxygen therapy with clinical improvement.

PROTECTION OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS

The authors declare that the procedures were followed according to the regulations established by the Clinical Research and Ethics Committee and to the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association.

DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

The authors declare having followed the protocols in use at their working center regarding patients' data publication.

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INFORMED CONSENT

Obtained.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All authors report no conflict of interest.

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