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Case Study

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Cystic Fibrosis Presenting as a Chief Complaint of Recurrent Arthritis: An Atypical Presentation of a Common Disorder

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Abstract

Arthritis is an uncommon complication of poorly controlled cystic fibrosis. Our patient is a 13-year-old Caucasian female who presented to the Children's Hospital of Michigan's Pediatric Rheumatology clinic with a primary complaint of relapsing and recurring monoarticular arthritis of the ankle over a 2-3-year long period. When reviewing her history, it is noted that she had chronic sinus congestion and a nasal polyp. On physical exam, she had significant clubbing of her fingers and toes. Her sweat test was positive and genetic testing confirmed the clinical diagnosis. Of note, aside from congestion she had minimal respiratory complaints. She was initiated on standard CF therapy and her arthritis resolved; therefore, confirming the diagnosis of CF associated arthritis.

Keywords: Cystic Fibrosis; Cystic fibrosis-related arthritis; Recurrent arthritis

Abbreviations

ANCA : Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody

BMI : Body mass index
CF : Cystic fibrosis

CFTR : Cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator

CFA : Cystic fibrosis associated arthritis

CBC : Complete blood count FVC : Functional vital capacity

FEV₁: Forced expiratory volume in one second

TBNK : T and B lymphocyte and natural killer cell profile

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