A 48 year old man was admitted to the emergency department because of painful swelling of his right calf that had developed gradually during the previous week. He denied cough, dyspnoea, or chest pain. He had no history of a previous thromboembolic event, local trauma, or dehydration. Six months earlier he was diagnosed as suffering from psoriatic arthritis and treated with sulphasalazine, which was stopped after two months because of drug induced hepatitis.

On physical examination he was afebrile and without dyspnoea. His lungs were clear. The left knee was mildly swollen, with a full range of motion and no clear effusion. No palpable popliteal cyst was found. His left calf was tender, swollen, with erythematous skin (fig 1). Homans’s sign was positive. Pitting oedema of the foot, maximal in the medial malleolus area, with purple discoloration, were noticed. Venous duplex scanning performed in the emergency department excluded deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

The patient was discharged and referred for further follow up in the outpatient clinic.

**QUESTIONS**

(1) What is the likely diagnosis?
(2) What physical examination sign was the clue for the final diagnosis?
(3) What are the diagnostic modalities you would use to confirm the diagnosis?
(4) What treatment is indicated?

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**Authors’ affiliations**

Y Berkun, K Sade, Y Naparstek, Department of Medicine, Clinical Immunology and Allergy Unit, Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel

Correspondence to: Dr Y Berkun, Department of Pediatrics, Bikur Cholim General Hospital, POB 492, Jerusalem 91004, Israel; berkun@md.huji.ac.il

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A 16 year boy, resident of Bihar, presented to the emergency department with a history of generalised weakness for one month, and bleeding from his gums for eight days. There was no history of prolonged fever, haematemesis, haematuria, or haemoptysis. The patient had not taken any drug in the recent past. On examination he had severe pallor. Examination of the cardiovascular system revealed an ejection systolic murmur in the pulmonary area. The rest of the physical examination was normal. Laboratory examination showed a haemoglobin concentration of 20 g/l and total leucocyte count of 3.1 × 10^9/l with differential leucocyte count of 19% neutrophils, 78% lymphocytes, 2% monocytes, and 1% eosinophils. Platelet count was 28 ×10^9/l. Anaemia was normocytic normochromic. No haemoparasites were seen in bone marrow. No abnormal cells were seen. In view of pancytopenia and relative decrease of myeloid cells and megakaryocytes in bone marrow, the possibility of toxic suppression of marrow was considered.

**Pancytopenia**

**Young male with pancytopenia: an unusual cause**

R Rajput, S B Siwach, S Singh, U Singh, Meena

Answers on p 304.

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**Figures**

Figure 1. A lateral view showing the swollen and erythematous left calf.

Figure 1. Bone marrow aspiration smear.
Painful elbow

Recurrent painful locking of the elbow joint

R Thonse, M Belthur

Answers on p 305.

A 45 year old, right handed bank clerk presented with pain and intermittent locking of the left elbow of 12 months’ duration. Pain was intermittent and was activity related. The left elbow locked intermittently on movement, with self manoeuvres of the patient unlocking it. There was no history of trauma or history suggestive of inflammatory arthropathy.

The left elbow had a fixed flexion deformity of 30 degrees with range of motion from 30 to 120 degrees with firm block to further flexion. Rotations of the left forearm were full and pain-free. There was no joint line tenderness. The radiographs of the left elbow are shown below in figs 1 and 2.

QUESTIONS
(1) What are the features seen on the radiographs?
(2) What is the likely diagnosis?
(3) What is the line of management?

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Authors’ affiliations
R Rajput, S B Siwach, Department of Medicine, Pt B D Sharma Postgraduate Institute of Medicine Sciences, Rohtak, Haryana, India
S Singh, U Singh, Department of Pathology
Meena, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

Correspondence to: Dr Rajesh Rajput, 29/9 J, Medical Enclave, Pt BDS PGIMS, Rohtak 124001, Haryana, India; rajputrajmeena@rediffmail.com or rajputrajmeena@hotmail.com
Submitted 2 July 2001
Accepted 27 November 2001

Figure 1 Anteroposterior view of left elbow joint.

Figure 2 Lateral view of the left elbow joint.

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Authors’ affiliations
R Thonse, M Belthur, Department of Orthopaedics, Alexandra Hospital, Redditch, UK

Correspondence to: Mr R Thonse, Room 3, Flat 6, RMO Block, Hull Royal Infirmary, Hull HU3 2J2, UK; rthonse@hotmail.com
Submitted 29 May 2001
Accepted 7 August 2001

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45 year old, right handed bank clerk presented with pain and intermittent locking of the left elbow of 12 months’ duration. Pain was intermittent and was activity related. The left elbow locked intermittently on movement, with self manoeuvres of the patient unlocking it. There was no history of trauma or history suggestive of inflammatory arthropathy.

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QUESTIONS
(1) What are the features seen on the radiographs?
(2) What is the likely diagnosis?
(3) What is the line of management?

Postgrad Med J 2002;78:301
A 45 year old man from South India had an asymptomatic verrucous plaque on the right palm with multiple haemorrhagic spots on the surface (fig 1) for the past three years. He also had a verrucous nodule on his left elbow. He gave a history of a reddish mass in both nostrils, which had recurred three times after excision in the past 15 years. At present he did not have any nasal lesions, but on examination of the oral cavity, a reddish polyp was observed hanging from the posterior surface of soft palate. Histopathological examination of the skin lesion was diagnostic (fig 2).

**QUESTIONS**
(1) What is your diagnosis?
(2) How can you confirm your diagnosis?
(3) What is the treatment of this disease?

*Postgrad Med J 2002;78:302*

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A 28 year old truck driver was seen at this institute with an abnormal chest radiograph (fig 1). He complained of non-specific chest pain for the past three years, and denied any other respiratory symptom. He had no significant occupational exposure to organic or mineral dust. His clinical examination was essentially normal. He had a respiratory rate of 20 breaths/min. Spirometry showed mild restrictive abnormality with vital capacity (VC) of 2.72 l (64.45% of predicted); forced expiratory volume in first second (FEV₁) of 2.51 l (71.02% of predicted) and FEV₁/VC ratio of 91.9%. Arterial blood gas analysis on room air showed normoxaemia with an arterial oxygen pressure of 12.3 kPa (92 mm Hg) with an oxygen saturation of 97%. Blood counts and biochemical tests for renal and hepatic functions were normal. Computed tomography of his chest is shown in fig 2.

**QUESTIONS**
(1) What are the findings on the chest radiograph and computed tomogram of the chest?
(2) What is the likely diagnosis?
(3) What additional investigations should be performed to confirm the diagnosis?
(4) What is the treatment and prognosis of the condition?

*Postgrad Med J 2002;78:302*
A previously fit 27 year old man presented to the gastroenterologists with a three month history of tiredness. There was no history of haematemesis, but he did complain of the passage of black stools on rare occasions. On examination temperature, pulse, and blood pressure were normal. There was no lymphadenopathy. Chest and abdominal examination were normal.

Laboratory investigations revealed a picture of iron deficiency with a haemoglobin concentration of 92 g/l, mean corpuscular volume 70.5 fl, mean corpuscular haemoglobin 21.8 pg, platelets 262 × 10^9/l, and an erythrocyte sedimentation rate of 13 mm/hour.

Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy revealed mild gastritis. He was negative for Helicobacter pylori and distal duodenal biopsies were normal. Chest radiography and colonoscopy were normal. He then underwent a barium follow through (see fig 1).

QUESTIONS
(1) Describe the features on the barium follow through.
(2) What is the differential diagnosis?
(3) What is the diagnosis?

Postgrad Med J 2002;78:303

Authors’ affiliations
V A Shenoy, M P N Lewis, Department of General Surgery, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust, UK
P Preston, Department of Radiology

Figure 1 Barium follow through.
A man with swollen calf and discoloration of the foot

Y Berkun, K Sade and Y Naparstek

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