Image of the week

Gorham's disease (disappearing bone syndrome)☆

Enfermedad de Gorham (síndrome del hueso evanescente)

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A 64-year-old female, smoker, presented with hypertension, hypercholesterolemia and schizophrenia. She was seen for progressive coxalgia of 2 years of evolution. In hip X-ray (Fig. 1), the disappearance of femoral head was evidenced, which in previous X-rays (Fig. 2) showed no alterations. Once the radiologic study was completed with NMRI and CT scan (Fig. 3), these reported massive lysis of acetabulum and condyel of femoral bone. Prior to the implantation of total hip prosthesis, a biopsy was performed which showed fibrous tissue with vascular proliferation, without malignancy data, which reaffirmed the previous suspicion of Gorham's disease.

Gorham's disease is a rare and infrequent entity. It is possible that it may have some relationship with the lymphangiomatosis. It causes a progressive destruction of the bone by proliferation of vascular tissue and osteoclasts. The most frequent clinical symptom it usually produces is pain and pathological fracture. The treatment of the disease is surgical, although in some cases it has been supplemented with radiotherapy and/or interferon.

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