Contralateral stress reaction in a patient with complex regional pain syndrome

E. Alagöz, Ü. Güzelkücük, Y. Demir, S. Ince
a Department of Nuclear Medicine, Gülhane Military Medical Academy and Faculty, Ankara, Turkey
b Gülhane Military Medical Academy, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Turkish Armed Forces Rehabilitation Center, Bilkent, Ankara, Turkey

Keywords: Complex regional pain syndrome; Three-phase bone scintigraphy; Misdiagnosis; Stress reaction

Objective.– Here, we report a case with right foot complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) which was misdiagnosed as CRPS on the left foot in the late period.

Observations.– A 27-year-old male was admitted to our hospital because of fracture caused by gunshot wound to the right ankle. He was treated with closed reduction. After 3 months, the patient developed right foot pain and swelling. His gait was affected and he required use of a cane. Three-phase bone scintigraphy (TPBS) showed increased tracer uptake in the right lower leg and he was diagnosed CRPS. Nine months later, TPBS revealed markedly decreased tracer uptake throughout the right foot. The patient was considered as in the late stage of CRPS of right side. But at the same time, increased tracer uptake in the left foot was also detected in the TPBS.

Discussion.– A diagnosis of CRPS in bilateral lower extremities was confirmed by scintigraphy but he did not have clinical features of CRPS on left side. Detecting increased tracer uptake in the TPBS might be also related with stress reaction due to overuse. If patient’s clinic is not evaluated truly, TPBS findings associated with overuse may lead to misdiagnosis.

Reference

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2014.03.917