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MEDICAL IMAGERY

Urethro-subcutaneous fistula and bilateral abscesses of the thighs



Figure 1 Urethro-subcutaneous fistula (arrow).

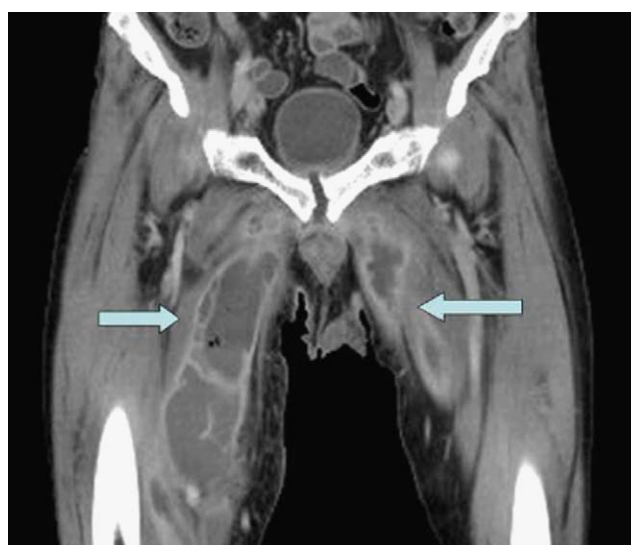


Figure 2 Bilateral subcutaneous abscesses of the thighs (arrows).

A 69-year-old Taiwanese diabetic man underwent a transurethral resection of the prostate for urinary retention that had developed 5 years previously. Localized prostate cancer was diagnosed. He then received definitive radiotherapy, which was complicated with mixed stress and urge urinary incontinence; he had a low level of serum prostate-specific antigen (PSA) at follow-up. Over the course of 2 weeks, he developed bilateral groin pain. Physical examination was unremarkable except for bilateral redness and tenderness in the area of the bilateral groin and medial thighs. Laboratory evaluation revealed a white blood cell count of $15.1 \times 10^9/l$. A transverse computed tomography view of the pelvis (Figure 1) revealed a urethro-subcutaneous fistula (arrow), which allowed urine to leak into the subcutaneous space, and extended downward to the area of the bilateral thighs, which resulted in abscess formation

(Figure 2). Urgent management included open drainage of the abscesses and urethral catheterization. Following this, and with intravenous antimicrobial therapy and control of blood sugar, the symptoms resolved. To our knowledge, this is the first case of a urethro-subcutaneous fistula resulting in extensive abscess formation in the thighs after radiation for prostate cancer.

Conflict of interest: No conflict of interest to declare.

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