Asymmetrical Swelling Of Distal Upper And Lower Limbs

Dr Aniketa Banerjee

A sixty-five years old right handed hypertensive euglycemic female was admitted in PMR Department with right hemiparesis due to hemorrhagic stroke in left MCA territory. She was also complaining of severe pain and swelling of small joints of all four limbs.

On examination- We noticed that there was asymmetry (right > left) of swelling and erythema of both upper and lower limbs (Fig. 1). It was very difficult to differentiate between soft tissue swelling and synovitis. Power Doppler ultrasound of both hand and wrist was done which showed significant sign of synovitis (Fig. 2). At that moment she fulfilled the diagnostic criteria of rheumatoid arthritis due to number of tender joint count and swollen joint count with raised ESR. On further biochemical and serological investigation it showed normal CRP, negative RF, anti CCP. Interestingly x-ray of both hands showed blotchy osteoporosis of right hand (Fig. 3). So, it was concluded that she was suffering from CRPS of right hand due to stroke associated with Rheumatoid Arthritis. Hence stellate ganglion block of right side was also planned for her CRPS of right hand along with DMARDS for RA. Thereafter she was discharged with pain free condition.

Fig. 1: Asymmetry (right > left) of swelling and erythema of both upper and lower limbs

Fig. 2: Power Doppler ultrasound of both hand and wrist was done which showed significant sign of synovitis

Fig. 3: X-ray of both hands showed blotchy osteoporosis of right hand