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Title

A Case Of Shoulder Pain and Wrist Drop

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Case Presentation

A 72 year old male presented to the emergency department with 10 days of severe, intermittent, left arm pain and left wrist drop. He localized his pain from the left lateral shoulder to the mid humerus. He endorsed radiating numbness and tingling to his dorsal left forearm and hand that accompanied his left wrist drop. Symptom onset was abrupt after waking up one morning. He denied preceding trauma or recent illness. At his sports medicine clinic appointment 3 weeks after the initial emergency department visit he endorsed persistent left lateral shoulder pain, left upper extremity tingling, and left wrist extensor weakness.

Discussion

Neuralgic amyotrophy, also known as Parsonage-Turner syndrome is a rare axonal disorder with an incidence of 1-3 cases per 100,000 people per year. The typical presentation is consistent with the subject's including abrupt onset of unilateral shoulder pain with progressive neurologic deficits such as motor weakness, dyesthesias, and numbness. It is often reported in the context of patients who have recently had a surgical procedure, a viral infection, or received vaccinations. 89 percent of patients have full functional recovery at 3 years. Neuralgic amyotrophy was diagnosed clinically, supported by the history, EMG results, and imaging. The patient was referred to PT for treatment. Additionally he was seen by neurology and neurosurgery for evaluation of stenosis secondary to degenerative disc disease which was determined to be non-contributory.