











ACUTE SWOLLEN JOINT

DR ROBERT RUSSO



OBJECTIVES

- Evaluation of the acute swollen joint
- Consider differential diagnoses:
 - Mechanical injuries
 - Rheumatic Diseases
 - Metabolic Disease
 - Infectious Conditions
- Approach to investigations



EXAMINATION OF THE SWOLLEN JOINT

- Observation
 - Loss of bony contour
 - Location of swelling
 - Presence of erythema / bruising
 - Skin rashes
- Motion
 - Limitation of movement
 - Fixed positioning of affected joint
 - Abnormal gait
- Touch
 - Heat
 - Focal vs diffuse





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Examination of an acutely swollen joint is not specific

Therefore importance of;

- Preceding history
- Associated symptoms
- Comorbid health conditions
- Family history

MECHANICAL INJURIES

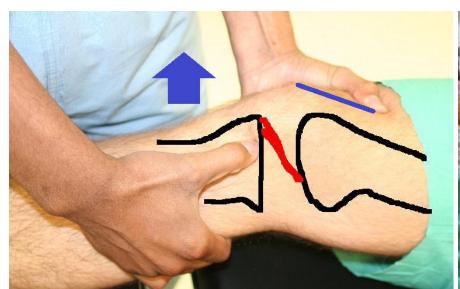
- Most common cause of acute joint / soft tissue swelling
 - Ligament tears
 - Osteochondral trauma
 - Chronic tendon pathology
 - Osteoarthritis
- Usually has an immediate preceding precipitating event
 - Occasionally swelling develops 1-2 days subsequently
- Swelling is predominantly a haemarthrosis
- Specific injury related to;
 - · Biomechanics of force
 - Age
 - Structural variation





LIGAMENT TEAR

• Examination procedures aim to exert a force normally resisted by an intact ligament

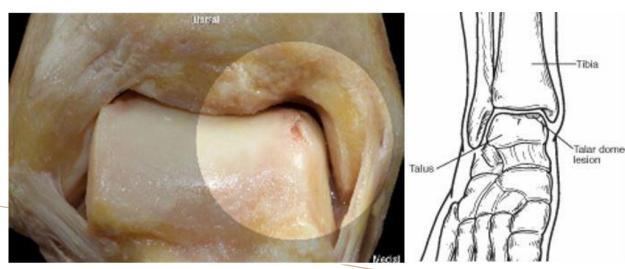






OSTEOCHONDRAL TRAUMA

- Can occur at the same time as ligamentous injury
- Ankle and knee most common
- Clinical indication is persistence of symptoms



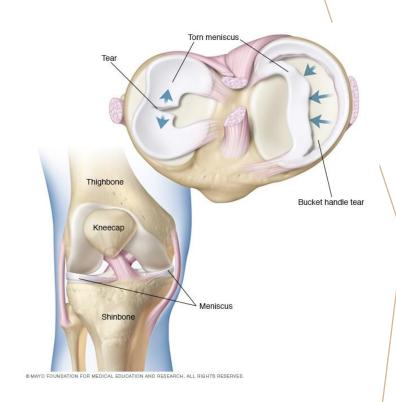




MENISCAL INJURY

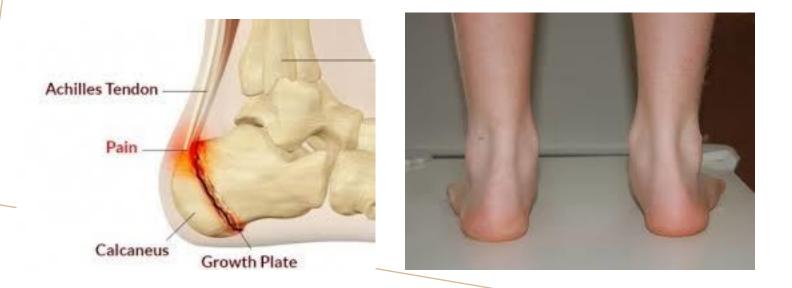
- Most commonly at the knee
- Mechanisms is a twisting motion on the weight bearing leg
- Suggestive symptom includes
 - Joint locking
 - Giving way
 - Persistent swelling





TENDON PATHOLOGY

- Swelling is usually focal
- Often aggravated by activities that load the tendon





Osgood Schlatter disease



OSTEOARTHRITIS

- Chronic process related to degeneration of cartilage
- Can be accelerate by inflammation of any cause, such as haemarthrosis
- Subchondral bone marrow oedema correlates closely with pain



RHEUMATIC DISEASES

- · Group of conditions characterized by the activation of the immune system against self
 - Phenotype defined by specific immune pathways and consequent cytokines involved
 - Cause unknown but relevant factors include;
 - Genetics
 - HLA B27: Seronegative arthropathies
 - HLADR3: Rheumatoid Arthritis
 - Hormonal factors
 - RA, SLE: F>M
 - AS: M>F
 - Environmental Factors
 - Viruses



WHAT IS THE CAUSE?



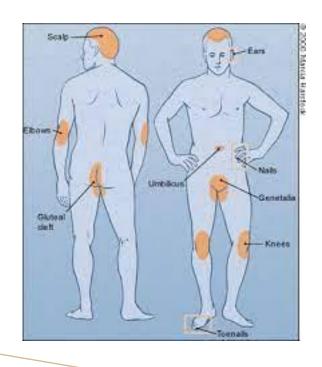
- Joint disease usually follows skin disease
 - Ave 10yrs
- Skin disease can manifest in various manners
 - Plaque
 - Palmar-plantar
 - Guttate
 - Inverse
 - Pustular
 - Erythrodermic
 - Nail







Skin disease





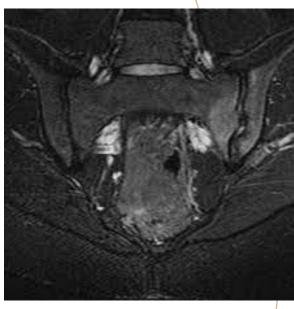


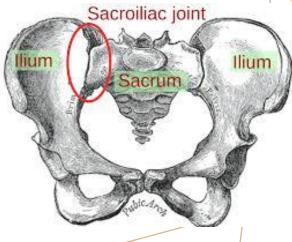
- Can present in a number of phenotypes
 - Monoarthritis
 - Polyarticular Rheumatoid like
 - Axial Spondyloarthritis
 - Mutilans











- Extra-articular manifestations include;
 - Uveitis
 - Inflammatory bowel disease
 - Enthesitis





- Variable course
 - Relapsing-remitting
 - Chronic active disease





WHAT IS THE CAUSE?

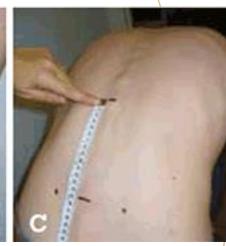


ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

- Inflammation of entheses
 - Characteristic involvement of spine
 - Most commonly affects sacroiliac joints and thoracic spine
 - Peripheral joint involvement
 - Lower limb joints
 - Knees and ankle
 - Lower limb tendon insertion
 - Achilles tendon and plantar fascia
- M>F
- Progressive loss of movement in spine
- HLA B27 positive: 90%











WHAT IS THE CAUSE?



RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

- Most commonly presents in polyarticular pattern
 - Rarely present as monoarthritis
 - Most commonly affects hands, wrists, and feet
 - MCP, PIP, MTP joints
 - Spares DIP joints
 - Spine not involved, except C1/2
- F>M
- Erosive arthritis resulting in deformity
 - Affects function



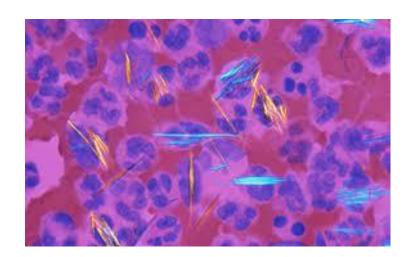


WHAT IS THE CAUSE?



GOUT

- Metabolic disorder and clearance of Urate metabolism
 - Main factor is inability to clear urate faster than production
 - Genetic predisposition OAT mutations
 - More common in certain populations Polynesians
 - M>F
- Development of Monosodium Urate deposits
 - Termed gouty tophi
 - Joints and skin
- Episodes of pain and swelling
 - Triggered by fluctuation in serum urate levels
 - Dietary factors
 - Disease
 - Medications
 - Duration variable: 1-4 weeks



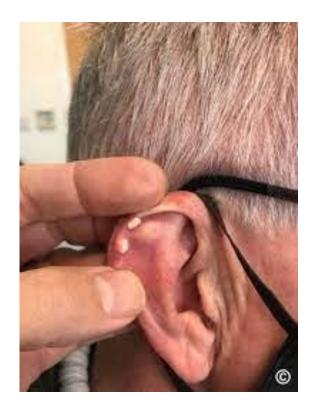




GOUT









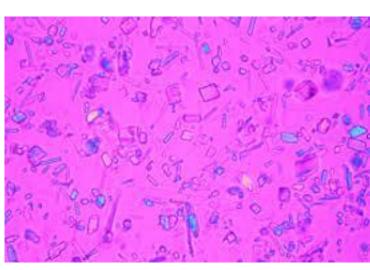






CALCIUM PYROPHOSPHATE DEPOSITION DISEASE - CPPD

- Also known as Pseudogout
- Development of Calcium pyrophosphate crystals within cartilage in context of chondral dysfunction
 - Most commonly related to Osteoarthritis
 - Can be secondary to metabolic diseases, such as;
 - Haemachromotosis
 - Hyperparathyroidism
 - Hypophosphatasia
 - Hypomagnesaemia
 - Hypothyroidism



CALCIUM PYROPHOSPHATE DEPOSITION DISEASE - CPPD

- Clinically often presents as a monoarthritis
 - Lower limb joints commonly involved
 - Can affect elbow and wrist
 - Similar episodic pattern
 - Flares lasting 1-4 weeks
 - Do not develop tophi



WHAT IS THE CAUSE?



INFECTION ASSOCIATED ARTHRITIS

- Any microbial organism can associate with an arthritis
- Viral associated arthritides
 - Most commonly polyarticular
 - Typical culprits:
 - Parvovirus B19
 - Chickungunya / Dengue
 - Hepatitis
 - HIV
 - COVID19
- Bacterial
 - Present typically as a monoarthritis
 - Staph A and Strep most common
 - Rapidly destructive process



Chickungunya Associated Arthritis



Septic Arthritis

WHAT IS THE CAUSE



INFECTION ASSOCIATED ARTHRITIS

- Reactive Arthritis
 - Sexually transmitted Infections
 - Gonorrhoea
 - Chlamydia
 - Food borne infections
 - Campylobacter
- Clinical feeatures
 - Typically mono or oligoarticular
 - Enthesitis
 - Including spine
 - Iritis / Uveits
 - Urethritis
 - Skin changes









APPROACH TO INVESTIGATION

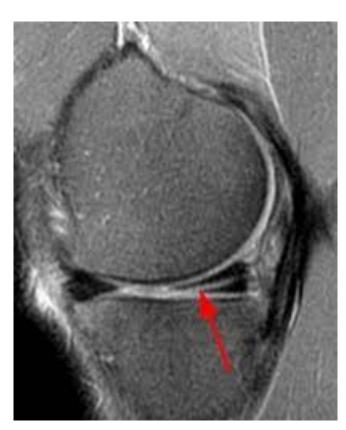
- Great history and examination
- JOINT ASPIRATE
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- Blood and urine tests
- Imaging
 - Ultrasound
 - X-ray
 - MRI



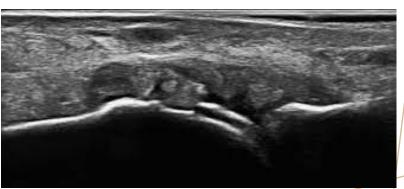


APPROACH TO INVESTIGATION

- Blood tests:
 - Serology
 - RF, anti CCP, ANA, HLA B27
 - Metabolic
 - Urate, Iron studies, CMP, PTH, TFTs
 - Inflammatory markers
 - ESR, CRP







CONCLUSION

- Not every swollen joint is a bleed
- The differential diagnosis is broad
- Associated clinical features can be useful
 - However significant overlap exists
- JOINT ASPIRATE should be considered in all to exclude infection
- Imaging can also be of value

