Progressive fibrosis of the quadriceps muscle

This 15 year old boy presented when 3 years old because of maternal concern about “not walking right”. He was born at term weighing 2.4 kg, was admitted to the special baby unit, and treated for septicaemia with intramuscular injections. Typically the vastus intermedius and lateralis components of the quadriceps are affected. The vastus intermedius is enclosed in an osteofascial compartment and lateralis components of the quadriceps are affected. The vastus intermedius and lateralis components of the quadriceps are affected.

Initial examination revealed limitation of flexion in both knees. A muscle biopsy showed no acute inflammation and a change threshold. This case highlights the importance of avoiding intramuscular immunisations.

Progressive fibrosis of skeletal muscle is a well recognised condition. Several case reports have shown a link with intramuscular injections. Typically the vastus intermedius and lateralis components of the quadriceps are affected. The vastus intermedius is enclosed in an osteofascial compartment and has a relatively poor blood supply. It is postulated that injection of large volumes of fluid into this confined space causes ischaemia, followed by necrosis, then fibrosis. Treatment involves early intensive physiotherapy and surgical intervention if severe.

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REFERENCES


This case highlights the importance of avoiding intramuscular injections if possible.