Proximal tibiofibular synostosis

Ahmet Yiğit Kaptan, MD., O. Şahap Atik, MD.
Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Medical Faculty of Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey

CASE REPORT

A 22-year-old male patient admitted to our outpatient clinic suffering from mild pain in left knee. There was no history of trauma. Pain was increased with kneeling. No abnormality was detected on physical examination. Imaging results revealed proximal tibiofibular synostosis in left knee.

Keywords: Proximal; synostosis; tibiofibular.

DISCUSSION

Synostosis has been reported at three levels between tibia and fibula. Distal tibiofibular joint synostosis is usually associated with trauma and it is the late complication of surgically treated ankle fractures. Middle tibiofibular joint is formed by interosseous membrane and this joint is between proximal and distal tibiofibular joints. Synostosis of the middle tibiofibular joint is also associated with trauma.

Proximal tibiofibular joint synostosis has also been reported in the literature. Growth deformities, exostoses, generalized syndromes, chromosomal anomalies and valgus deformities are associated factors for proximal tibiofibular joint synostoses reported in the literature.

However, symptomatic idiopathic proximal tibiofibular synostosis has been rarely reported in the literature. Sferopoulos investigated proximal tibiofibular joint synostosis among 1,029 patients...
examined for osteoarthritis of the knee. There were three patients radiologically diagnosed as proximal tibiofibular joint synostosis. Two of the patients were idiopathic and the other patient had surgical treatment for lateral plateau fracture. However, these patients were not symptomatic.

Lateral knee pain, ankle pain, peroneal nerve palsy and pseudoradicular syndrome have been reported as symptoms of proximal tibiofibular joint synostosis in the literature. Authors hypothesized that synostosis could cause dorsal root activation by stretching the peroneal nerve. However, our patient only had mild knee pain increased with kneeling.

Idiopathic proximal tibiofibular joint synostosis is a rare condition and a variety of symptoms can be found in a patient. Patient’s symptoms and physical examination and radiogram findings are diagnostic for the disease.
**Declaration of conflicting interests**

The authors declared no conflicts of interest with respect to the authorship and/or publication of this article.

**Funding**

The authors received no financial support for the research and/or authorship of this article.

**REFERENCES**