Metallosis

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A 49-year-old woman had had bilateral total hip arthroplasty 8 years previously. She suffered from left hip pain with fever. Plain radiograph showed a peripheral high-density lesion in the superior region of the left hip (Picture 1). CT scan showed a 6.4 cm non-enhanced lesion (Picture 2). The prosthesis screw projected out beyond the acetabulum to the iliopsoas bursa (Picture 1, 2; thin arrow). Abscess was unlikely. MRI revealed a juxta-articular lesion with a heterogeneous hypointensity (Picture 3, 4). CT guide biopsy was performed and histology revealed many black pigmented areas engulfed by histiocytes in a densely fibrotic background. Metallosis was diagnosed.

Metallosis is defined as an infiltration of metallic debris...
in the periprosthetic soft tissue and bone as a result of wearing arthroplasty (1). The failure rate due to metallosis ranges from 0.3 to 3.1% over 3-5 years after the arthroplasty (2). Diagnosis is made based on clinical manifestation and imaging evidence.

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References