Multiple Tumoral Calcinosis in Systemic Sclerosis

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A 67-year-old woman, who was diagnosed with systemic sclerosis 10 years previously, presented with tumoral masses in the left hip joint and both elbows. Computed tomography showed multiple calcified lesions around the cervical spine, left ribs, right shoulder, both elbows and left hip joint (Picture 1). The serum calcium and phosphorus levels and parathyroid function appeared to be normal. Histological examination revealed calcified foci in the left elbow mass (Picture 2). Various pharmacological agents such as warfarin, colchicine, and bisphosphonates, have been used to treat calcinosis (1). However, in the present case, warfarin and bisphosphonate were ineffective in the treatment of calcinosis.

Dystrophic calcification is thought to occur in tissues which have been impaired due to mechanical stress, hypovascularity, or tissue hypoxia (1). One year after the identification of the hip joint tumor, the patient died due to gastrointestinal disease progression and malabsorption. Therefore, tumoral calcinosis might reflect an advanced stage of systemic sclerosis with circulatory disturbance and extensive connective tissue fibrosis.

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Reference