Radiographic Features of Rhupus Arthropathy

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Picture.

A 66-year-old woman was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) at 30 years of age and developed systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) at 37 years of age. The diagnosis of SLE was made based on the presence of leukopenia, positive antinuclear, anti-DNA, anti-ribonucleoprotein (RNP) and anti-Sm antibodies and membranous-type lupus nephritis. Her RA hemagglutination titer was 1:320. Sjögren's syndrome was also diagnosed because anti-SSA antibodies and a lip biopsy were positive. A recent radiograph of the patient's hands showed severe bilateral ulnar dislocation of the fingers without bone erosions of the metacarpophalangeal

joints. The carpal bones were almost completely resorbed on the left side and fused on the right side (Picture). The bilateral metatarsophalangeal joints were also dislocated laterally without bone erosions. A cervical spine radiograph revealed severe anterior atlantoaxial subluxation. The level of anti-citrullinated peptide antibodies was 5.1 U/mL (normal <4.5). Fulfillment of the criteria for both RA and SLE is sometimes called "rhupus."

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