Hypertrophic Osteoarthropathy Associated with Esophageal Cancer

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A 58-year-old man was admitted to a local hospital with a five-month history of fatigue, peripheral edema, generalized myalgia and arthralgia. He had lost 30 kg of weight over the previous six months. The findings of gastrointestinal endoscopy and a biopsy led to a diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus, and the patient was referred to our hospital for further management. He had symmetrical polyarthritis involving both the large and small joints. In addition, his hands and feet were swollen bilaterally, and prominent digital clubbing was noted. Radiographs
revealed noticeable periosteal thickening of almost all long bones, including the humerus, radius, ulna, femur, tibia, fibula, metacarpals and proximal and middle phalanges (Picture). Accordingly, the patient was diagnosed with hypertrophic osteoarthropathy (HOA) associated with esophageal cancer. The cancer was inoperable; therefore, only gastrostomy was performed. Although there have been a dozen case reports of HOA associated with esophageal cancer (1), the full-blown presentation observed in the present patient is quite rare.

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Reference