

Curiositas

MEDICAL STUDENT QUIZ

A 48 year old female had been symptomatic for the last two decades with pain, swelling and stiffness of the small joints of her hands and feet. She had been taking herbal medications for the last 6 years. Examination revealed swelling of the small joints of her hands, wrist, ankle and foot joints as well as deformities of hands and feet. She was positive for anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (Anti CCP) antibody. (A) Identify the deformities? (B) What is the most probable diagnosis?



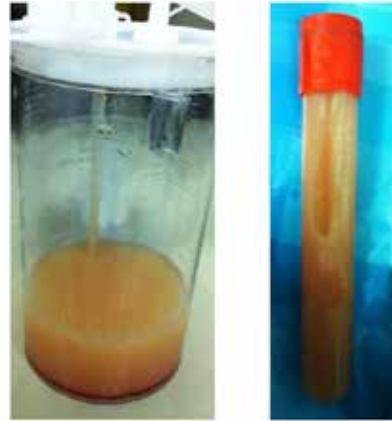
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POSTGRADUATE QUIZ

A 48 year old woman with a past history of treated lymphoma was admitted with slowly increasing breathlessness. She was systemically well and afebrile. A chest radiograph revealed a right pleural effusion.



She proceeded to thoracentesis. The material shown in the specimen bottles was drained from her pleural cavity. (A) What is the most likely diagnosis? (B) What are the typical laboratory findings? (C) What possible underlying causes would you be concerned about?



Dr Ian Bickle, Consultant Radiologist, Raja Isteri Penigran Anak Saleha Hospital, Bandar seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam and Dr Paul Hamilton, Specialty Registrar, Chemical Pathology, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland.

AND FINALLY.....

What does the MRI appearance of this patient's pons remind you of and can you name the typical cause?



Dr Ian Bickle, Consultant Radiologist, Raja Isteri Penigran Anak Saleha Hospital, Bandar seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

ANSWERS See overleaf.

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Curiositas: Answers

MEDICAL STUDENT QUIZ

(A) Swan neck deformity and Hallux varus deformity. A swan neck deformity is characterized by hyper-extension at the proximal interphalangeal joint with flexion at the distal interphalangeal joint. Hallux varus is characterized by medial deviation of the great toe from the first metatarsal bone.

(B) Rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis involving multiple small joints of hands and feet lasting for more than six weeks in the presence of antibodies to cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP) meets the 2010 American College of Rheumatology/European League Against Rheumatism Rheumatoid Arthritis Classification Criteria.

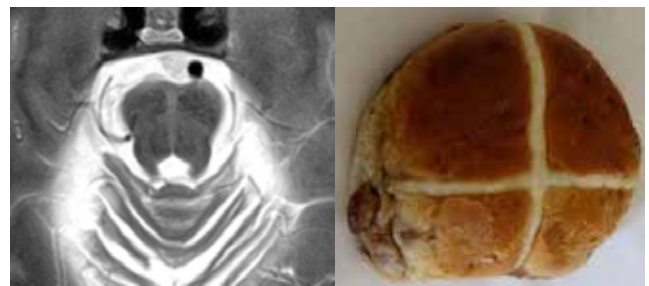
POSTGRADUATE QUIZ

(A) Turbid, milky fluid has been drained from the pleural cavity. In this case, the patient had a chylothorax, but fluid with a similar appearance may be found in those with empyema or pseudochylothorax. Empyema is less likely here since the patient was systemically well.

(B) Chylothorax fluid will remain milky after centrifugation. It typically contains chylomicrons and triglyceride in elevated concentrations.

(C) A chylothorax may be the presenting feature of several disease processes, most commonly in the setting of thoracic trauma or neoplastic disease. It is the result of disruption to the thoracic duct. In this instance the patient was found to have a relapse of her lymphoma.

AND FINALLY.....



The 'Hot cross bun' sign refers to the distinct appearance of the pons as seen in several neurodegenerative diseases, most commonly the Parkinson plus syndrome, multiple system atrophy (MSA). Linear hyperintense T2 signal forms a cross through the pons on axial sequences, identical to that on the top of the western bakery delicacy the hot cross bun. The cross on the bun has religious connotations, representing the crucifixion of Christ, hence the seasonal appearance of these buns largely around Easter time.

(Hot cross bun kindly made and photographed by Mr Rodger V Bickle, Kettering, Northamptonshire. Radiographic images courtesy of Dr Ian Bickle, Consultant Radiologist, Raja Isteri Penigran Anak Saleha Hospital, Bandar seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam)