Cases of chronic elbow monoarthritis are rare in children. Our study presents a case of an atypical onset of oligoarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) presenting with chronic monoarticular involvement of the elbow. A 14-year-old female child presented with chronic recurrent left elbow swelling of six months' duration. The patient had limited last degree elbow extension with no other joint swelling, uveitis, or skin manifestations. On examination, there was mild cubitus valgus with elbow effusion. X-ray of the rear feet showed degenerative changes. Musculoskeletal ultrasound revealed chronic active synovitis suggesting JIA. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) were recommended to detect the underlying pathology and histopathology. An initial sign of the disease is a rare condition which needs prompt diagnosis and management. In the absence of systemic signs or other factors affecting the outcome, the patient was put on NSAIDs without improvement, two ultrasound examinations showed retro calcaneal bursitis, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed calcaneal bursitis and negativation of the doppler signal. No recurrence was noticed.

Conclusions

We report a 14-year-old female child who presented with atypical chronic elbow monoarthritis and was diagnosed by biopsy. Synovial biopsy can have a major role in the diagnosis of atypical monoarticular arthritis. Chronic elbow monoarthritis is an atypical onset of oligoJIA and its associated with limited last degree elbow extension with no other joint swelling, uveitis, or skin manifestations. Synovial biopsy is important to prevent irreversible joint damage. Synovial biopsy can help in early diagnosis and management improving the outcome.

Chronic elbow monoarthritis is an atypical onset of oligoJIA and its associated with limited last degree elbow extension with no other joint swelling, uveitis, or skin manifestations. Synovial biopsy is important to prevent irreversible joint damage. Synovial biopsy can help in early diagnosis and management improving the outcome.


does not apply