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Neuropathic Foot Complications Mimicking Diabetic Neuropathy in Patients without Diabetes Mellitus

N. Papanas^{1,2}, E. Maltezos², M. Edmonds¹

¹Diabetic Foot Clinic, King's College Hospital, London, UK

²Second Department of Internal Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece

Aim of the study: The aim of the present study was to examine the causes and clinical presentation of neuropathic foot complications mimicking diabetic neuropathy in patients without diabetes mellitus. **Patients and methods:** Patients' records were studied retrospectively. Patients without diabetes who presented with neuropathic foot complications reminiscent of diabetic neuropathy were identified. **Results:** The search identified 45 patients (22 men with a mean age of 49.9±15.9 years, 23 women with a mean age of 58.7±20.7 years). The causes of neuropathy were as follows: spina bifida (10 patients, 22.2%), traumatic neuropathy (9 patients, 20%), uraemic neuropathy (one patient, 2.2%), alcoholic neuropathy (2 patients, 4.4%), drug-induced neuropathy (4 patients, 8.9%), vasculitic neuropathy (3 patients, 6.7%), congenital neuropathy (3 patients, 6.7%), malignancy (3 patients, 6.7%) and miscellaneous causes (10 patients, 22.2%). The most frequent presenting symptom was chronic or recurrent neuropathic ulceration (26 patients, 57.8%), followed by neuropathic pain (9 patients, 20%), Charcot foot (7 patients, 15.5%), foot drop and deformities (3 patients, 6.7%). Neuropathic ulcers were complicated by severe infection in 5 patients. **Conclusions:** Non-diabetic patients may develop neuropathic foot complications mimicking diabetic neuropathy. The most frequent causes of this non-diabetic neuropathy appear to be spina bifida and traumatic neuropathy. The commonest clinical presentations include neuropathic ulceration and neuropathic pain. Interestingly, infection of the ulcer, Charcot foot and deformities may also occur.