

ABS 13: Case report : Paget's disease of bone, an atypical presentation in A Nigerian

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Objective: To report a case of Paget's disease of bone in a Nigerian.

Case presentation:

Mr. O.P a 68 year old man was referred to the endocrinology clinic from the cardiologists where he had been managed for hypertensive heart disease for several years. He had a 17 year history of progressive increase in the size of his head. which he ascribed to age related changes. He had also been seen in the ear, nose and throat clinic 10 years previously for bilateral hearing loss, worse on the right side. He had occasional low back pain. Serum biochemistry revealed alkaline phosphatase ten times the upper limit of normal and a normal serum calcium and phosphate. Plain x-rays were in keeping with Paget's disease of bone. The skull x- rays showed thickening of the skull vault widening the diploe, lytic and sclerotic lesions giving rise to a cotton wool appearance of the skull. Lumbo-sacral x-rays showed global osteosclerosis, thoraco-lumbar scoliosis, wedge

collapse of T11 and T12 and dorsal spondylosis.

Since the diagnosis was made 5 months ago he has been unable to commence biphosphonate therapy due to financial constraints.

Discussion; The diagnosis of pagets disease of bone is not in question in this patient, a disease said to be rare in Africa. Despite the gross changes in his head size, He has the polyostotic type as more than one bone was affected. The patient had been attending several outpatient clinics before an observant resident made the diagnosis .Unfortunately the drugs of choice in the management of his condition are not within reach as most patients still have to pay out of their pockets for medical care in Nigeria.

Conclusion: Paget's disease of the bone is .a disease which is often asymptomatic and diagnosed incidentally when laboratory investigations are done for some other reasons. It may not be so rare in Africa where people hardly have investigations done due to poor health care facilities. There is a need for greater awareness of the condition and studies to be done on its prevalence in Nigeria.