CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Arthralgia and an Unusual Radiological Finding

An 18-year-old man complained of pain in an ankle of three days' duration, without any antecedent trauma, and presented for radiological examination, accompanied by his mother. The image revealed multiple, irregular, rounded, oval foci of diminished transparency. The patient was of Turkish ancestry; the bone changes were typical of osteopoikilosis, a very rare, benign bone malformation first described in 1915, with familial clustering in eastern Anatolia and along the shores of the Black Sea. This is a hereditary condition with an autosomal dominant inheritance pattern. The skeletal changes are usually discovered as an incidental finding in childhood or adolescence; as the individual grows, they may increase or decrease in size or disappear entirely. No treatment is needed. This patient's symptoms resolved after treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs and were presumably due to a nonspecific arthropathy or tendinopathy.

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