CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Van Neck–Odelberg Disease

A 10-year-old boy was transferred to the pediatric orthopedic ward after findings on radiography and magnetic resonance (MR) imaging aroused suspicion of a pathological fracture of the pubic ramus. For the past 4 months he had been complaining of a dragging feeling in the left groin, radiating into the medial left thigh. Neither the patient nor his parents recalled any trauma. Comparison of the original and new radiographs and

MR images, obtained 4 months apart, showed no progression and no change in criteria of malignancy. No biopsy procedure was carried out, because the clinical and radiological findings were consistent with Van Neck–Odelberg disease (aseptic osteonecrosis). The literature to date contains fewer than 30 cases of this rare disease. The symptoms resolved completely after a few months of pain-adapted full weight bearing.

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