

Inflammatory Reaction After Hylan G-F 20 Injection That Mimicked Infection

👤 Case Report

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INTRO

- Inflammatory reaction after viscosupplementation of the knee is an uncommon but known complication of this procedure that can also mimic infection of the knee.
- Since septic arthritis of the knee is a potentially life threatening complication, it is important to be able to recognize the distinguishing characteristics between an inflammatory reaction of the knee and this more dangerous outcome.

CASE REPORT

- 67 year old female with chronic bilateral knee pain received the second of three bilateral intra-articular hylan G-F 20 injections of the knees, and reported increased bilateral knee pain for the following two days that was worse than her pre-injection pain, with associated knee swelling.
- Patient denied fever, chills, recent infection, recent trauma, increased warmth or skin changes of the knees. As a result of these complications, a decision was made to cancel the third injection in the series.
- Patient's third injection of the series was cancelled, the treatment plan was changed to receive intra-articular knee steroid injections, and patient subsequently responded well with significant pain relief.

DISCUSSION

- Of the various types of injectable Hyaluronic Acid, hylan G-F 20, a polymer of Hyaluronic Acid, has been identified in the literature to be the most common type that causes an inflammatory reaction that can mimic infection.
- Key features of this case that are characteristic features of an inflammatory reaction following viscosupplementation with hylan G-F 20 include:
 - 1.) Intra-articular knee effusion with severe pain that usually occurs within 24 to 72 hours after injection
 - 2.) absence of infectious signs/ symptoms including fevers, chills, or infectious source
 - 3.) reaction must occur after the second or third injection in order for immune sensitization to occur that leads to the reaction.

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