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Delayed presentation of compartment syndrome of the thigh secondary to quadriceps trauma and vascular injury in a soccer athlete

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Introduction: Compartment syndrome isolated to the anterior thigh is a rare complication of Soccer injury. Previous reports in the English literature on sports trauma-related compartment syndrome of the thigh are vague in their description of the response of thigh musculature to blunt trauma, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) findings of high-risk features of compartment syndrome, vascular injury in quadriceps trauma, and the role of vascular study in blunt thigh injury.

Case Report: We present herein the rare case of a 30-year-old man who developed thigh compartment syndrome 8 days after soccer injury due to severe edema of vastus intermedius and large thigh hematoma secondary to rupture of the profunda femoris vein. MRI revealed "blow-out" rupture of the vastus lateralis. Decompressive fasciotomy and vein repair performed with subsequent split-skin grafting of the wound defect resulted in a good functional outcome at 2-years follow-up.

Conclusion: A high index of suspicion for compartment syndrome is needed in all severe quadriceps contusion.Vascular injury can cause thigh compartment syndrome in sports trauma. MRI findings of deep thigh muscle swelling and "blow-out" tear of the vastus lateralis are strongly suggestive of severe quadriceps injury, and may be a harbinger of delayed thigh compartment syndrome.

Biography

Ing How Moo has completed his MBBS from University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia and Post-graduate MRCS (Ireland) at the age of 26. He is currently an Orthopaedic Surgery resident with an interest in trauma surgery. He has published 5 papers in reputed journals and has been invited to present at 4 international orthopaedic conferences held in Europe & Asia. He is active in research and is currently conducting few trials.

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