Case Report

Pelvic digit: What are you pointing at?

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Abstract

A pelvic digit is a rare congenital anomaly and is often discovered incidentally. We present a 44-year-old male patient with bilateral pelvic digits discovered on a pelvic radiograph during a primary survey after a road traffic accident. Supplementary imaging using computed tomographic imaging confirmed the bilateral finding which is rare. No surgical attempt was made at removal as the patient remained asymptomatic.

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Introduction

A rare congenital anomaly, the pelvic digit, also known as pelvic rib, pelvic finger, or 11th finger, is a condition, whereby bone develops within the soft tissue adjacent to normal skeletal bone. More often than not, this occurs close to the pelvic bone, near the lower rib, but it may also occur within the abdomen, albeit less commonly.\(^1\) This rare condition is benign and normally asymptomatic, often discovered incidentally. Most cases are unilateral while bilateral lesions are extremely rare. We consider the importance to be able to recognise its typical appearance not only in orthopaedic practice but also in primary care and in Trauma and Emergency settings, especially if they occur in patients after high energy injury with multiple fractures.\(^2\) It must be differentiated from an avulsion fracture of pelvis or ilium, especially in an avid sportsman or football players, as well as post-traumatic ossification or osteochondroma of the pelvis, which would require different approaches and management. We report a case of bilateral pelvic digits discovered incidentally in a patient who presented to the emergency department following a road traffic accident. To our knowledge, this is the first case report of bilateral pelvic digit occurrence in our region apart from the first reported case by Hoeffel et al. in France.

Case report

The case report pertains to a 44-year-old male patient who was brought into the emergency department after a road...