Parailiac ectopic bone after Cloward procedure

Case report

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A rare case of parailiac ectopic bone formation 10 years after a Cloward procedure is presented. Dystrophic calcification of a previous hematoma or deposit of bone dust were considered to be the origin of this unusual complication.

KEY WORDS • Cloward procedure • cervical disc surgery • ectopic iliac bone • surgical complication

It is well known that complications occasionally appear after anterior interbody fusion in the cervical spine with the Cloward technique. However, complications in the site where the bone graft is obtained are very infrequent. Fractures of the anterosuperior iliac spine have been described after obtaining the bone graft. The present report documents a rare complication in a patient who underwent the Cloward procedure with the iliac crest used as a graft donor site. This complication consisted of the formation of parailiac ectopic bone which was demonstrated 10 years after operation.

Case Report

This 55-year-old patient underwent surgery on July 6, 1974, for cervical degenerative disc disease. A Cloward procedure was performed at the C4–5 level. On January 17, 1984, the patient presented to our department complaining of diffuse pain of the right anterosuperior iliac crest that had lasted for a few months. On examination a firm subcutaneous mass was palpable. X-ray films of the iliac crest showed ectopic bone formation in the donor site of the bone graft (Fig. 1).

Comment

When the anterior iliac crest is used to provide a bone graft, hematoma at the donor site may cause discomfort postoperatively. In our patient, a possible cause of the parailiac bone formation may have been dystrophic calcification of a previous hematoma or deposit of bone dust.

References


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