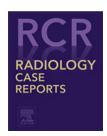


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# **Case Report**

# Diffuse periostitis as the primary presenting radiological finding in an AML patient with disease relapse

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#### ABSTRACT

Acute myelogenous leukemia is a hematologic malignancy defined by the presence of myeloid blasts causing bone marrow infiltration. Evaluation and workup of acute myelogenous leukemia is based on comprehensive medical history, physical examination, laboratory evaluation, and bone marrow sampling. Magnetic resonance (MR) imaging is the study of choice in the evaluation of this disease including the initial evaluation, treatment followup, and complications. Herein, we report a case of relapse of the acute myelogenic leukemia in an adult patient who presented with diffuse periostitis in his lower extremities diagnosed on MR imaging and confirmed on Technetium bone scan, which also showed periostitis along the bilateral humeri. To our knowledge, this was not previously reported in the English literature.

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### Introduction

Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) is a heterogeneous hematologic malignancy defined by the presence of myeloid blasts in the peripheral blood, bone marrow, or other tissues [1]. It is the most frequent leukemia in adults with an incidence of 3.7 per 100,000 persons. AML is a fatal disease with patients ultimate dying of bone marrow failure–related complications [2]. Clinical presentation of AML reflects the under-

lying process of leukemic bone marrow infiltration resulting in neutropenia, anemia, and thrombocytopenia. Children typically present with fever, fatigue, pallor, infections, and bleeding [3]. Adult patients may present with anemia and fatigue, decreased energy level lasting several weeks, dyspnea on exertion, and dizziness. Older patients with coronary artery disease may present with anginal chest pain and the myocardial infarction may be their first presenting symptom [4,5]. Evaluation and workup is based on comprehensive medical history, physical examination, laboratory evaluation, and bone marrow analysis [1].

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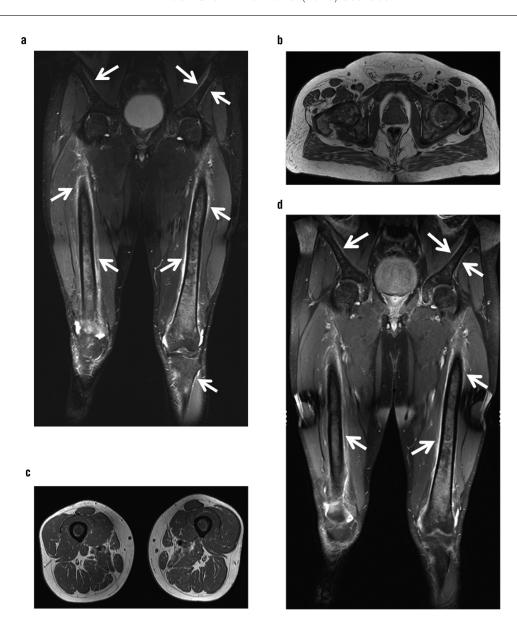


Fig. 1 – Marrow infiltrative process and diffuse periostitis on MR imaging. (A) Coronal STIR MR image of the pelvis and bilateral femora shows diffusely heterogeneous appearance of the bone marrow with patchy increased signal intensity, which is most pronounced in the bilateral femora. Note diffuse high signal intensity periostitis about the pelvis and bilateral femora (white arrows). Axial T1-weighted MR images of the hips (B) and bilateral femora (C) demonstrate patchy areas of low-signal intensity consistent with bone marrow replacement in keeping with marrow infiltrative process. (D) Coronal gadolinium-enhanced T1-weighted fat-saturated MR image of the pelvis and bilateral femora demonstrates extensive periosteal enhancement (white arrows) consistent with periostitis.

Role of imaging in AML workup and follow-up is limited. As per National Comprehensive Cancer Network, imaging is recommended in presence of focal symptoms such as neurologic deficits requiring head computed tomography (CT) or brain MR imaging. Nuclear imaging in the form of PET/CT can be utilized in cases with suspected extramedullary disease [1]. Whole-body MR imaging has also been studied in children with AML for assessment of extramedullary disease, particularly chloromas [6]. Additionally, MRI is performed for suspected various coexisting and/or unrelated posttraumatic, inflammatory or infectious conditions, if clinically indicated.

Imaging, particularly MR imaging, can be helpful in patients undergoing therapy in differentiating the treatment changes and disease complications. We present a case of diffuse periostitis as the primary presenting radiological finding in an AML patient with disease relapse.

## **Case report**

A 45-year-old male was diagnosed with AML with initial flow cytometry showing 45% myeloid blasts with inversion of

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