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Synovitis

Synovitis is the medical term for <u>inflammation</u> of the <u>synovial membrane</u>. This membrane lines joints that possess cavities, known as <u>synovial joints</u>. The condition is usually painful, particularly when the joint is moved. The joint usually swells due to synovial fluid collection.

Synovitis	
Specialty	Rheumatology

Synovitis may occur in association with <u>arthritis</u> as well as <u>lupus</u>, <u>gout</u>, and other conditions. Synovitis is more commonly found in <u>rheumatoid arthritis</u> than in other forms of arthritis, and can thus serve as a distinguishing factor, although it is also present in many joints affected with <u>osteoarthritis</u>.^{[1][2]} Long term occurrence of synovitis can result in degeneration of the joint.

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Signs and symptoms

Synovitis causes joint tenderness or pain, swelling and hard lumps, called nodules. When associated with rheumatoid arthritis, swelling is a better indicator than tenderness.^[3]

Diagnosis

A rheumatologist will aim to diagnose the cause of the patient's pain by first determining whether it is inside the joint itself, meaning true synovitis, or if it is actually caused by an inflammation of the tendons, referred to as tendonitis. Imaging, such as an MRI or musculoskeletal ultrasound is often required to make a firm diagnosis.

Treatment

Synovitis symptoms can be treated with <u>anti-inflammatory</u> drugs such as <u>NSAIDs</u>. An injection of steroids may be done, directly into the affected joint. Specific treatment depends on the underlying cause of the synovitis.

See also

- Tenosynovitis
- Transient synovitis
- Knee effusion (water on the knee)

References

- Sutton S; Clutterbuck A; Harris P; Gent T; Freeman S; Foster N; Barrett-Jolley R; Mobasheri A (2009). "The contribution of the synovium, synovial derived inflammatory cytokines and neuropeptides to the pathogenesis of osteoarthritis". *The Veterinary Journal*. **179** (1): 10–24. doi:10.1016/j.tvjl.2007.08.013 (https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.tvjl. 2007.08.013). PMID 17911037 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17911037).
- Scanzello, C. R.; Goldring, S. R. (2012). "The role of synovitis in osteoarthritis pathogenesis" (https://www.ncbi.nlm.ni h.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3372675). Bone. 51 (2): 249. doi:10.1016/j.bone.2012.02.012 (https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.bo ne.2012.02.012). PMC 3372675 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3372675).
- 3. http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/538421 accessed July 28, 2008 (registration required)

External links

- Derm Atlag, 1087062720 (http://dermatiag.mad.ibmi.adu/darm/raguit.afm2Dia		
 DermAtlas -1087962730 (http://dermatlas.med.jhmi.edu/derm/result.cfm?Dia gnosis=-1087962730) 	Classification	ICD-10: M65 (htt D
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