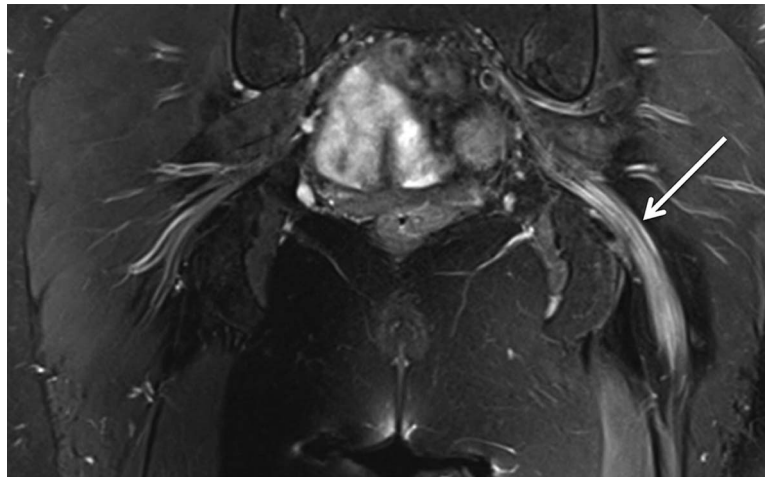


Teaching NeuroImages:

Sciatic neuropathy after heroin abuse

Harvinder Kumar, MD
Yuebing Li, MD, PhDCorrespondence to
Dr. Li:
liy@ccf.org**Figure** Left sciatic nerve enlargement on MRI

MRI of the hips shows a significantly enlarged left sciatic nerve (arrow) with hyperintense signals and a normal-appearing right sciatic nerve on T2-weighted coronal image.

A 38-year-old woman presented with acute onset of severe pain in the left calf and foot after inhaling heroin. On examination, she had distal left lower extremity weakness and absent ankle jerk. EMG at 8 weeks suggested an axonal left sciatic neuropathy. HIV test was negative. Creatine kinase, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, and C-reactive protein were normal. MRI revealed prominent edema and enlargement of the left sciatic nerve without contrast enhancement (figure). She received weekly infusions of IV methylprednisolone leading to improvement in her symptoms and MRI findings. Recognized neuromuscular complications of acute heroin usage include mononeuropathy, polyradiculoplexopathy, and rhabdomyolysis secondary to possible inflammatory or toxic mechanisms.^{1,2}

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Harvinder Kumar: drafting/revising the manuscript, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and will give final approval, acquisition of data. Yuebing Li: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and will give final approval, acquisition of data, study supervision.

STUDY FUNDING

No targeted funding reported.

DISCLOSURE

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

REFERENCES

1. Dabby R, Djaldetti R, Gilad R, et al. Acute heroin related neuropathy. *J Peripher Nerv Syst* 2006;11:304–309.
2. Warner-Smith M, Darke S, Day C. Morbidity associated with non-fatal heroin overdose. *Addiction* 2002;97:963–967.

Neurology®

Teaching *NeuroImages*: Sciatic neuropathy after heroin abuse

Harvinder Kumar and Yuebing Li

Neurology 2013;81:e51

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182a1aad9

This information is current as of August 19, 2013

Updated Information & Services	including high resolution figures, can be found at: http://n.neurology.org/content/81/8/e51.full
Supplementary Material	Supplementary material can be found at: http://n.neurology.org/content/suppl/2013/08/14/81.8.e51.DC1
References	This article cites 2 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at: http://n.neurology.org/content/81/8/e51.full#ref-list-1
Subspecialty Collections	This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s): Neuropathic pain http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/neuropathic_pain Other toxicology http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/other_toxicology Peripheral neuropathy http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/peripheral_neuropathy
Permissions & Licensing	Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at: http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions
Reprints	Information about ordering reprints can be found online: http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2013 American Academy of Neurology. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.

