

J. Smith  
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PATIENT: J. Smith  
DOB: 2/4/1962  
FILE #: 0123456  
PHYSICIAN: REFERRING  
EXAM: MRI SCAN OF THE RIGHT ELBOW  
DATE: 08/07/2003

#### CLINICAL INDICATION

Lateral joint line pain.

#### TECHNIQUE

An MRI examination of the elbow was performed. The sequences provided included axial T1, coronal dual-echo, axial T2, coronal STIR, sagittal proton-density, sagittal STIR and sagittal gradient-echo images.

#### FINDINGS

There is MRI evidence of attenuation of the proximal fibers of the common extensor tendon complex extending to their origin from the lateral epicondyle. There is surrounding signal abnormality in this region and extending into the soft tissues and proximal extensor musculature. The findings are consistent with tendinopathy/degeneration and tearing of the proximal fibers of the common extensor tendon complex. Based on the significant attenuation, this appears to be at least high-grade partial tearing and may represent a region of functionally complete tearing of the tendon substance in this patient. There is minimal irregularity along the peripheral margin of the lateral epicondyle.

Evaluation of the regional marrow does demonstrate minimal marginal spurring involving the radiocapitellar and humeroulnar joint articulations consistent with degenerative arthritic change. There is no evidence of an acute fracture. There is a moderate-size elbow volume joint effusion evident.

On the coronal views, there is thickening of the ulnar collateral ligament complex fibers which may represent a previous injury/chronic stress-related change with a degree of scarring. The common flexor tendon complex fibers appear intact. The visualized distal biceps, brachialis and distal triceps tendon fibers appear grossly intact.

#### IMPRESSION

1. TENDINOPATHY/DEGENERATION AND TEARING OF THE PROXIMAL FIBERS OF THE COMMON EXTENSOR TENDON COMPLEX. AS DESCRIBED, THIS APPEARS TO BE AT LEAST HIGH-GRADE PARTIAL TEARING AND MAY REPRESENT A REGION OF FUNCTIONALLY COMPLETE TEARING OF THE TENDON SUBSTANCE. THERE IS ASSOCIATED SURROUNDING EDEMA WITHIN THE SOFT TISSUES IN THE PROXIMAL EXTENSOR MUSCULATURE. THE FINDINGS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF LATERAL EPICONDYLITIS.
2. DEGENERATIVE ARTHRITIC CHANGES INVOLVING THE ELBOW JOINT ARTICULATION. THERE IS AN ELBOW VOLUME JOINT EFFUSION/INTRA-ARTICULAR SYNOVITIS.
3. MINIMAL THICKENING OF THE ULNAR COLLATERAL LIGAMENT COMPLEX FIBERS. THE FINDINGS MAY REPRESENT A PREVIOUS INJURY/CHRONIC STRESS-RELATED CHANGE WITH A DEGREE OF SCARRING.

THIS REPORT WAS ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED

**Cary J. Hoffman, MD**  
CJH/km