Melorheostosis of Leri

Introduction

- Also known as “Leri’s Disease”
- An uncommon mesenchymal dysplasia manifesting as regions of sclerosing bone.
- Bone changes occur in early childhood, and the condition often remains latent until late adolescence or early adulthood.\(^1\)
  - Only half of these cases are diagnosed before the age of 20, with no familial linkage.\(^1\)

Characteristics

- The name is derived from the Greek words for limb (\textit{melos}) and flow (\textit{rhe}), due to its characteristic appearance of flowing hyperostosis.
- Melorheostosis of Leri has a predilection for long bones of the limbs, although it can be seen almost anywhere. Hands and feet are frequently involved whereas involvement of the axial skeleton is rare.
- A classic appearance of thick undulating ridges of bone, similar to “molten wax”.\(^1\)
- The abnormality appears confined to sclerotomes, and can be seen apparently flowing across joints to the next bone.\(^2\)
  - Associated with sclerodermic skin changes, sometimes vascular tumors and muscle atrophy

Treatment

- The disease follows a chronic progressive course in adults and an even faster course in children, occasionally resulting in substantial disability.\(^3\)
  - Conservative management is often palliative care.
- Surgical intervention may be required, including tendon release, osteotomies and even amputation\(^3\)

References

2. Motimaya AM, Meyers SP. Melorheostosis involving the cervical and upper thoracic spine: radiographic, CT, and MR imaging findings. AJNR Am J Neuroradiol. 27 (6): 1198-200