

Mountain Bikers and Pearls...Some Things to Consider

"I have been riding my bike a lot. When I was taking a shower I noticed a small lump on my right testicle. There was no pain or swelling. I felt for the lump daily to see if anything had changed. Now I am feeling pain all over my right testicle and the lump has enlarged. I had an ultrasound. I went to the urologist who reviewed it and felt my epididymis, which hurt. Now I am concerned that this might be testicular cancer."

While the comments above are unrelated to the images and case study in this publication, for the purpose of this newsletter they do relate to the thoughts and concerns of a patient with this problem.

Could this be testicular cancer?... Scrotal Pearls

A scrotal nodule, also known as a fibrinoid loose body or scrotal pearl, is a benign non-neoplastic extratesticular mass. The loose body arises from the tunica vaginalis and may break free to become a loose body located between the two membranes of the tunica vaginalis testis. Grossly, these appear as round, pearly white, rubbery masses. Thought to arise from torsion of the appendix testis or appendix epididymis, from hematomas, or from inflammation of the tunica vaginalis testis, these nodules may present as either painful or non tender free floating or dependent scrotal masses.

Painful nodules are felt to result from repeated patient palpation. Following patient self-exam, then, it is not uncommon for these lesions to come to attention as part of a "rule out testicular mass" workup. Evidence that these nodules may result from repetitive trauma is the observation in one report that 81% (69 of 85 patients) of male mountain bikers were found to have scrotal pearls,

whereas 0% of non bikers had nodules. Because of their association with inflammatory scrotal processes, hydrocele is a common secondary finding. The presence of a hydrocele may make the nodules more conspicuous because they will be surrounded by fluid.

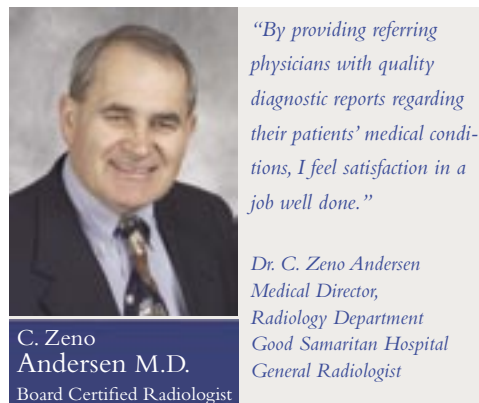
Interesting Case: Scrotal Pearls or Fibrinoid Loose Bodies-The images are from Auburn MultiCare Health Center.

Ordering Physician:



Jay K. Gusler, MD
Auburn MultiCare
Family Practice

Reading Physician:



C. Zeno Andersen M.D.
Board Certified Radiologist

"By providing referring physicians with quality diagnostic reports regarding their patients' medical conditions, I feel satisfaction in a job well done."

Dr. C. Zeno Andersen
Medical Director,
Radiology Department
Good Samaritan Hospital
General Radiologist

Image 1

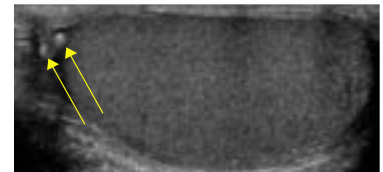


Image 2

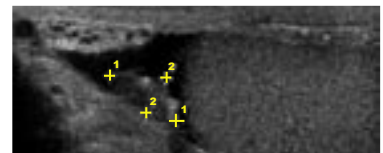


Image 3

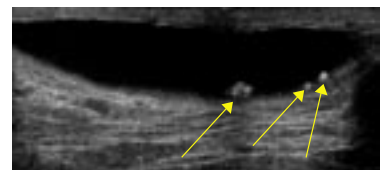


Image 4



Clinical Information: Palpable abnormality in the right scrotum.

- Normal testes bilaterally without suspicious focal masses
- Bilateral small hydroceles right greater than left
- Several intrinsic small echogenic foci some of which appear relatively mobile. The largest are superiorly in each scrotal sac and are most likely representative of scrotal pearls or fibrinoid loose bodies. These generally result from prior inflammatory process. The larger nodule on the right corresponds the area of palpable concern by the patient.

Results: Benign lesions, no cancer.
No treatment needed.

Bonney Lake Imaging Center
(Spring view)

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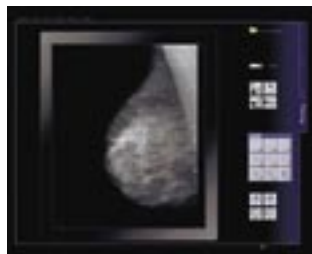


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Medical Imaging Northwest News is a monthly publication designed to tell the community about our physicians' expertise and imaging studies done at Medical Imaging Northwest's outpatient centers and partner sites.

If you have questions, comments or ideas for future publications, you may contact Vicki Brown, Marketing Communications Manager at Vbrown@minw.com 253-841-4353.

Thank you for your interest.



Great news! Medical Imaging Northwest is Now All Digital!

Full-field Digital Mammography is now offered to patients scheduling their mammograms at our Puyallup Imaging Center located at 222 15th Ave. SE, Puyallup, WA 98372.

Digital Mammography:

- Fewer repeats
- Fewer patient recalls for additional images
- Fewer resultant biopsies
- Easier image viewing, manipulation, transfer and storage
- Averaged overall all patients had a lower radiation dose

Full-field digital mammography in clinical trials demonstrated a lower recall rate (11.8% vs. 14.9%) and a significantly lower biopsy rate (14 vs. 21 per 1000) exams than film-screen mammography. Studies do not currently show a difference in sensitivity between the two methods of performing mammography.

Digital mammograms do not suffer the loss of contrast that exists in film-screen mammography due to overexposure or underexposure. This makes image interpretation easier, decreases the number of repeated images and reduces recall rates.

Averaged over all patients, the breast x-ray doses from full-field digital mammography are 10% to

50% lower than those of film-screen mammography. For patients with more dense breast tissue (usually younger women) which is less easily compressed, these differences are more pronounced.

Digital Mammography images are viewed on high resolution monitors, also known as 'soft-copy'. This allows your interpreting radiologist to view multiple processed versions of each breast, while eliminating the need for film (hard-copy) processing, handling, filing and storage. The radiologist can view images at two or three different window settings to optimally visualize subcutaneous tissues, as well as "through" the dense portions of the breast. Your digital images can be made available to your referring healthcare provider via a secure digital network, on specialized laser film or burned onto a CD-ROM.

Our 'Second Look' computer-aided detection (CAD) system will still be checking images. Patients will have a digital mammogram plus CAD.

Preview of Coming Events - 64 Slice CT Is Coming Soon!



Jonathan M. Kell M.D.
Board Certified Radiologist

When **Dr. Jonathan Kell, Neuroradiologist for Medical Imaging Northwest** was asked about our new CT his response was: "The added detectors (of our new 64 slice CT) should further improve the quality of our CT angiography data, and CT data in general, and patients should benefit from decreased breath holding and scan times."



Jorge M. Medina M.D.
Board Certified Radiologist

Dr. Jorge Medina, Musculoskeletal Radiologist for Medical Imaging Northwest, also added, "64 multidetector CT is cutting edge advanced technology that helps the radiologist diagnose illness quickly and efficiently."

For additional information visit www.minw.com