

### Scurvy mimicking spondyloarthritis in a young man

G. Pazzola, N. Possemato, G. Germanò, C. Salvarani

Rheumatology Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, Azienda Ospedaliera ASMN, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico, Reggio Emilia, Italy.

Giulia Pazzola, MD

Niccolò Possemato, MD

Giuseppe Germanò, MD

Carlo Salvarani, MD

Please address correspondence to:

Dr Giulia Pazzola,

Department of Internal Medicine,  
Rheumatology Unit,

Azienda Ospedaliera ASMN,

Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a

Carattere Scientifico

viale Risorgimento 80

42123 Reggio Emilia, Italy.

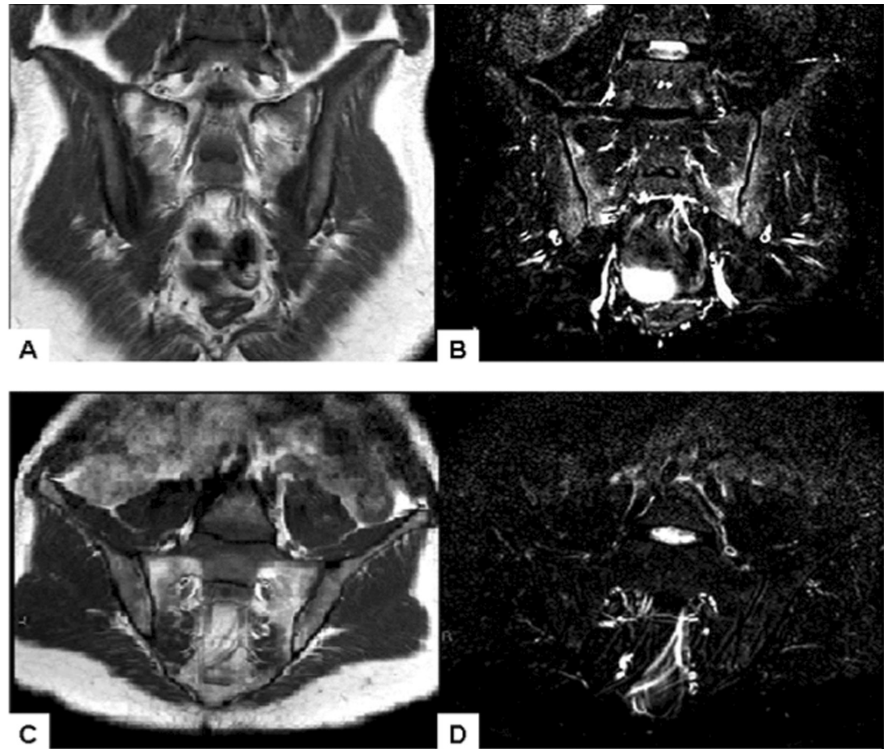
E-mail: pazzola.giulia@asmn.re.it

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**Fig. 1.** Coronal T1 weighted (A) and STIR (B) MR images of the sacro-iliac joints showing areas of bone marrow oedema. Coronal T1 weighted (C) and STIR (D) MR images showing resolution of lesions after seven months.

A 20-year-old male was admitted to our department because of walking inability and back pain. MRI showed bone marrow oedema of the sacroiliac joints in multiple slices and oedema of both femoral heads with bilateral hips effusion. Some inflammatory characteristics of the back pain and radiologic findings were suggestive of axial spondyloarthritis. The physical examination showed petechial rash and bruising in both arms and marked underweight. His past medical history disclosed scurvy: five years before he presented multiple haematomas, gingival hyperplasia, hyporegenerative anaemia, trombocytopenia, spastic paraparesis, non-traumatic femoral displacement of the distal epiphysis. Vitamin C supplementation completely resolved every clinical manifestation. While he was hospitalised we found

low vitamin C levels (0.2 mg/100mL, n.v. 0–6.2), high CRP level (1.42 mg/dL, n.v. 0–0.5), normal ESR; HLA B27 was negative. We prescribed only adequate vitamin C supplementation and a balanced diet. After one month low back pain completely resolved and the patient was able to walk. Ecchymosis and bruising disappeared. After seven months, MRI of sacroiliac joints and femoral heads was normal with complete resolution of oedema. The MRI appearances of scurvy are poorly documented and, our case suggests, that they can mimic the lesions observed in the early phase of axial spondyloarthritis.

#### Reference

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