Brian L. Patterson, MD, MSc, J. Michael Ray, MD, and Amit Varma, MD

PROBLEM





A 68-year-old man presents to your urgent care clinic with chronic right shoulder pain that has increased in severity over the past month. He denies any history of acute trauma or injury. Your exam reveals that he has decreased range of motion and severe pain during all movements of his right shoulder. Radiographs of the shoulder are shown.

What is your diagnosis?

Turn page for answer





ANSWER





The images reveal severe degenerative joint disease of the acromioclavicular and glenohumeral joints with joint space narrowing, subchondral sclerosis, and osteophyte formation. No acute fracture or process is noted. Osteoarthritis is relatively uncommon in the shoulders in comparison with the knees and hips. Treatment of degenerative joint disease of the shoulders consists of oral pain medications, anti-inflammatory agents, and/or surgical intervention. Injection therapy using a short-acting analgesic combined with a corticosteroid may also alleviate symptoms for an extended period of time. This patient was treated with an injection of 4 mL of bupivacaine hydrochloride and 1 mL of 40 mg/mL methylprednisolone acetate in the right anterior subacromial space. He was referred to an orthopedic surgeon for further evaluation.

Dr. Patterson, editor of "Radiology Quiz," is a fellow in sports medicine and nonoperative orthopedics at the National Training Center Sports Medicine Institute in Clermont, Florida. **Dr. Ray** is medical director and a sports medicine orthopedic surgeon at the National Training Center Sports Medicine Institute. **Dr. Varma** is a sports medicine orthopedic surgeon at the National Training Center Sports Medicine Institute.