

Diagnostic Challenge

Just another knee sprain?

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CASE HISTORY

A 62-year-old man presented to the emergency department with right-knee pain and an inability to bear weight on the affected limb after stumbling down a set of stairs. The patient did not fall, nor did he twist his knee. He complained of pain around his knee, but only on extension. His medical history included hypertension and type 2 diabetes mellitus. There was no history of recent immunosuppressive therapy or treatment with a fluoroquinolone antibiotic.

The key features of the physical examination are

evident in the photographs of the patient's knee (Fig. 1).

QUESTION

What is the diagnosis?

- a) anterior cruciate ligament disruption
- b) patellar dislocation
- c) ruptured quadriceps tendon
- d) tibial plateau fracture

For the answer to this challenge, see page 75.



Fig. 1. Knee of a 62-year-old man with right-knee pain and an inability to bear weight on the affected limb after stumbling down a set of stairs.

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Submitted Apr. 9, 2009; Accepted May 28, 2009

This article has not been peer reviewed.

CJEM 2010;12(1):62