Case of the Month

1st August 2023





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Presented by:



Dr. TANG Holmann

Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Princess Margaret Hospital Hong Kong, SAR

Learning Points:

- Insertional Achilles tendinosis is prevalent among both athletes and untrained active adults.
- Following a thorough history and physical examination, X-Ray and ultrasound scans are considered. 12,3,4,5
- Non-operative treatment methods such as exercise and ESWT (extracorporeal shockwave therapy) are effective. Other nonoperative treatments such as splinting, steroid injections, PRP (platelet-rich plasma) injections lack sufficient evidence to be recommended.^{6,7,8}
- © Effective surgical treatment includes open debridement and excision of ossified/calcified tendon, along with excision of Haglund deformity. Other surgical techniques such as endoscopic, minimally invasive, or percutaneous procedures, have not gained sufficient evidence to be recommended for routine use.⁶⁷

Title:

Management of Avulsion Fracture of the Ossification in Insertional Achilles Tendinosis

Upcoming Case on **1st September 2023**

Presented by:

Dr. Sora TonsuthanluckRajavithi Hospital
Bangkok, Thailand



Title:

Less invasive surgery for calcaneus fracture fixation using modified sinus tarsi approach

Want to present a case? Write to...



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<u>Management of Avulsion Fracture of the Ossification in Insertional</u> Achilles Tendinosis

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Case presentation

A 56-year-old hotel coach driver suffered a sprain injury to his right heel after tripping on a curb, resulting in a forced dorsiflexion injury in Apr 2011. Upon presentation to our facility, he exhibited a painful and swollen heel and was unable to walk. Ha had a longstanding history of diabetes. Additionally, he underwent an operation in 1993 to repair a right Achilles tendon cut by a broken piece of glass and had experienced no significant residual symptoms since.

(Fig. 2)







(Fig. 3)

On physical examination, a marked bruise and swelling were observed around the posterior ankle and heel region (*Fig. 1-3*). A horizontal curvilinear "smile" scar was also noted over the heel region (*Fig. 4-5*) which was a result of the previous surgery. Tenderness was detected upon palpation of the region, and a palpable gap was felt over the insertion site of the Achilles tendon. The Thompson test yielded a positive result, and distal pulses were present.





(Fig. 4)

(Fig. 5)

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X-Ray of the right heel showed a fracture of the heterotopic ossification of the Achilles tendon (Fig. 6)



(Fig. 6)
X rays of the right ankle showing fracture of the heterotopic ossification of Achilles

Initially, the procedure entailed the excision of the heterotopic ossification and the debridement of the diseased tendon tissue (*Fig. 7-10*).



(Fig. 7)
Excision of the heterotopic ossification ossification and the debridement of the diseased tendon



(Fig. 8)



(Fig. 9)



(**Fig. 10**)
Size of heterotopic ossification

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Subsequently, the proximal tendon was affixed using the Achillon device. It is worth noting that, in instances of Achilles tendon repair without previous scarring, a shorter longitudinal incision could be executed (*Fig. 11*), compared to the typical open repair.

To address the distal insertion site, the Mitek GII suture anchor device was employed. Furthermore, the Achilles tendon was reattached with advancement. Following the operation, the patient was provided with a dynacast for protection (*Fig. 12*).



(**Fig. 11**)
Achillon device (On another patient)



(**Fig. 12**)
Post op X-Ray showing ossified tendon being excised

Postoperatively, he demonstrated favorable ankle motion, as evidenced by his ankle with dorsiflexion of 20° and plantarflexion of 40 °(*Fig. 13*). He was on follow-up for more than 4 years and did not experience any lingering heel pain. In fact, he was able to resume normal activities and even indulged in hiking!



(**Fig. 13**)
Post-op 19 months ROM

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(Fig. 14) Scar over the right heel



(**Fig. 15**) X-Ray on follow-up 21 months

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