

An Ongoing Series

To Cut or Not to Cut That Is an Ultrasound Question!

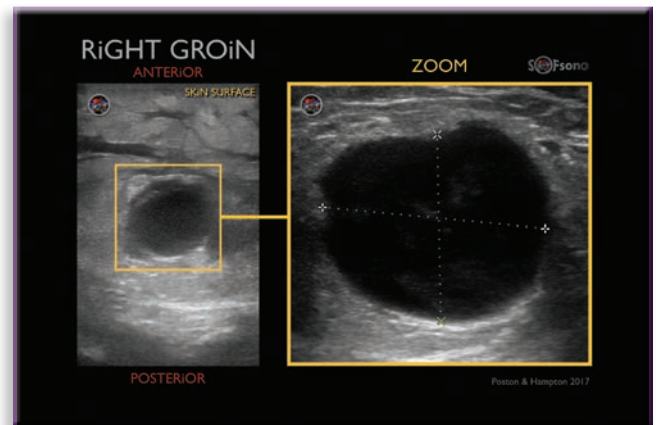
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Your ODA is on a training mission in the southern Philippine islands. While conducting base defense improvements and inspections your engineering sergeant (18C) has an accident resulting in a large splinter impaled into his right upper thigh. You remove it and 2 days later the 18C complains of pain, swelling, warmth, and redness around the initial puncture wound. On physical examination, the patient is well-appearing and afebrile. All his vital signs are within normal limits. The upper portion of the right anterior thigh and his right groin are red, tender to touch, warm, and the skin is indurated. You palpate a tender lump in the right groin. Your junior medic is already preparing for the incision and drainage procedure. However, your sixth sense is telling you to grab an ultrasound probe first!

1. What typical sonographic findings of cellulitis do we observe in Figure 1 (image on the left)?
2. What treatment and procedures are indicated?

Join us at SOFSono.org for further case discussion.

Figure 1 Sonographic findings of cellulitis.



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Fall 2017
Volume 17, Edition 3

JSOM

JOURNAL of SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEDICINE™



THE JOURNAL FOR OPERATIONAL MEDICINE AND TACTICAL CASUALTY CARE



Inside this Issue:

- › Case Report of Exertional Heat Illness
- › Case Report: Aspirin for Suspected Acute Ischemic Stroke
- › Unwrapping a Tourniquet
- › Combat Trousers as Improvised Pelvic Binders
- › Surgical Instruments for Expeditionary Surgical Teams
- › GHOST Operational Concept
- › Bite Risk When Working With Military Dogs
- › Prehospital TXA Administration
- › New and Standard BVM Ventilation-Rate Comparison
- › Junctional Hemorrhage Model Testing XSTAT®
- › Fatalities Among Police Officers During Tactical Incidents
- › Optimizing Simulation and Moulage in Training
- › Atropine Eye Drops
- › Prehospital Chest Seal Placement in Afghanistan
- › No Ordinary Sleeper Cell
- › Humanitarian Struggle in Burma's Conflict Zones
- › Ongoing Series: Human Performance Optimization, Infectious Diseases, Injury Prevention, Law Enforcement & Tactical Medicine, Preventive Medicine, Prolonged Field Care, SOFsono Ultrasound Series, Special Talk: An Interview, The World of Special Operations Medicine, Book Reviews, TCCC Updates, Dedication, and more!

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