

8th European Neurology Congress

September 21-23, 2016 Amsterdam, Netherlands

Radial nerve palsy following intramuscular analgesic injection into the arm: A case report

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We present a 68-year-old male patient sent to the Council of Forensic Medicine from the courts with a post-injection neuropathy claim. The patient noticed pain in the area of injection, weakness in the wrist and fingers which resulted in fully weakness and numbness of the right hand within 16 hours following the injection of 500mg/ml of metamizole sodium intramuscularly. Nerve conduction studies and needle EMG examination, approximately 1 month later, showed sensorimotor polyneuropathy and focal neuropathy of the right radial nerve. Cervical magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was unremarkable. The patient was diagnosed with intramuscular injection induced radial nerve neuropathy which did not show adequate improvement with time despite a sufficient physical therapy program. The etiology of injury—direct trauma to the nerve versus indirect injury via an inflammatory process—remains unclear. Iatrogenic injury to nearby peripheral nerves may be avoided with training in the appropriate administration of an intramuscular injection and a basic understanding of anatomy.

Biography

Filiz Azman is working in Bakirkoy Sadi Konuk Research and Training Hospital in Department of Neurology, Istanbul, Turkey. Filiz Azman has published more than 8 papers in reputed journals.

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