

Painful leg and moving ankle syndrome

Y.N. Kwon^{1,3}, J.H. Lee^{2,3}, D. Lee³

¹*Department of Neurology, Jindo-gun Public Health Center, South Korea*

²*Department of Neurology, Cheorwon-gun Public Health Center, South Korea*

³*Department of Neurology, College of Medicine, Kyung Hee University, South Korea*

Background: Painful leg and moving toe syndrome is characterized by pain in the feet or lower limbs and spontaneous movement of the toes. The variants of this syndrome include phenotypes affecting the upper limbs, with symptoms such as painful hands and moving fingers. We present a case of chronic leg pain associated with involuntary ankle movements.

Case Report: A 43-year-old woman presented with a 3-month history of involuntary movements of the left ankle, which appeared insidiously and an 18-month history of left leg pain and paresthesia. The involuntary movements of the left ankle had a roving pattern with some jerky components. No spontaneous toe movements were observed. The pain did not respond to various analgesics. Lumbar spinal magnetic resonance imaging revealed left-sided disc protrusions at the L3-4 and L4-5 levels. Nerve conduction studies showed left peroneal and lateral femoral cutaneous neuropathy. The ankle movements did not respond to clonazepam, baclofen or anti-dopaminergic agents. The ankle movements resolved when the pain subsided spontaneously 6 months later. **Comments:** Involuntary ankle movements can be associated with moving toe syndrome. However, to the best of our knowledge, isolated movement of the ankle in association with proximal leg pain has not been described previously. The present case illustrated a rare type of involuntary distal movement associated with neuropathic leg pain.