

Thromboangiitis obliterans

A 34-year-old man with a 20-year history of smoking two packs of cigarettes per day presented with chronic recurrent ischemic ulcers and superficial thrombophlebitis of the four limbs as well as blanching and coldness of the fingers on exposure to cold (Fig. 1a). He had experienced these symptoms for four years, but never got a precise diagnosis despite having visited several

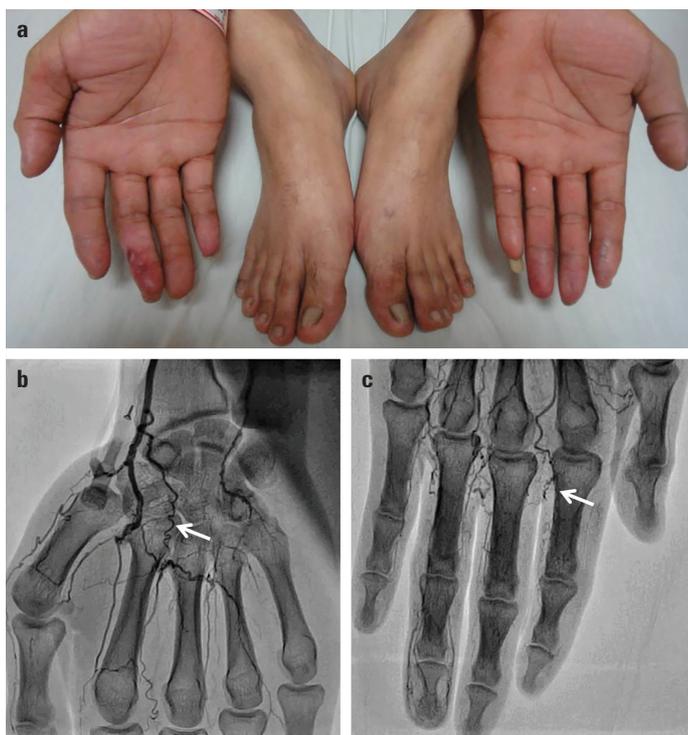


Figure 1. Four limbs showed blue fingers and toes (Panel a). Angiography of the right and left hands showed multiple occlusions of the digital arteries with collateralization (corkscrew collaterals) (white arrows in Panels b and c) around the areas of occlusion

hospitals. Both radial and popliteal pulses were normal, but cold tips of the four limbs were noted.

Angiography of the right (Fig. 1b) and left (Fig. 1c) hands revealed multiple occlusions of the digital arteries with collateralization (corkscrew collaterals, white arrows in Figs. 1b and 1c) around the areas of occlusion. He scored 10 points under Papa's point scoring system (1) and a definite diagnosis of thromboangiitis obliterans was made. The first step of treatment is complete discontinuation of smoking; no other therapies are definitive (2).

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References

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