

Musculoskeletal case 21. Presentation

A 59-year-old woman complained of sudden onset of severe disabling back pain. She had a history of cervical carcinoma treated 2 years earlier with local and external beam radiation. No abnormalities were obvious on clinical examination; in particular, no neurologic deficit was evident.

Plain radiographs of the lumbar spine were interpreted as normal, apart from bony demineralization,

which was likely due to osteoporosis. Radioisotope bone scanning was performed to identify any bony metastases.

The bone scan (Fig. 1) demonstrated intense radioisotope uptake in the alae and across the midline of the sacrum, best seen on the posterior view (open curved arrows). The bladder containing urine and radioisotope is noted in the pelvis (closed curved arrow). A focus of uptake can

be seen in the left inferior pubic ramus on the anterior view (straight arrow).

Pelvic radiography (Fig. 2), including dedicated views of the sacrum (Fig. 3), and computed tomography of the pelvis (Fig. 4) were subsequently done to characterize the scintigraphic findings.

What is the diagnosis?

For the answer and a discussion see page 153.

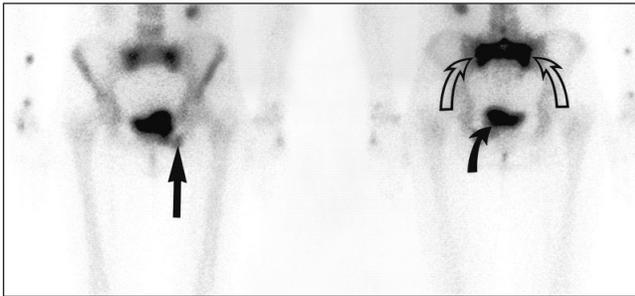


FIG. 1.

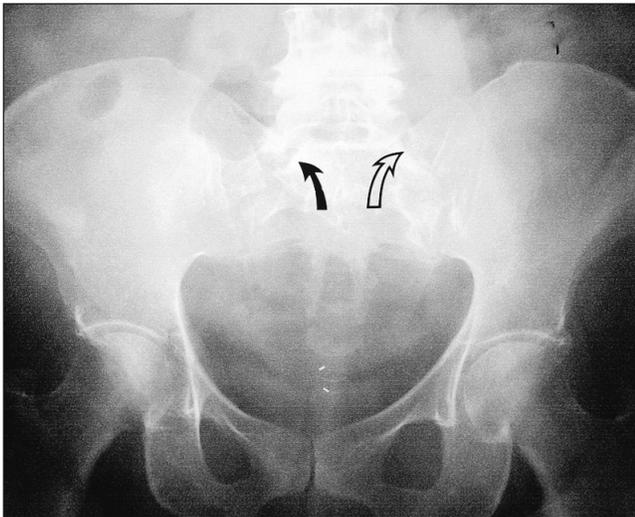


FIG. 2.

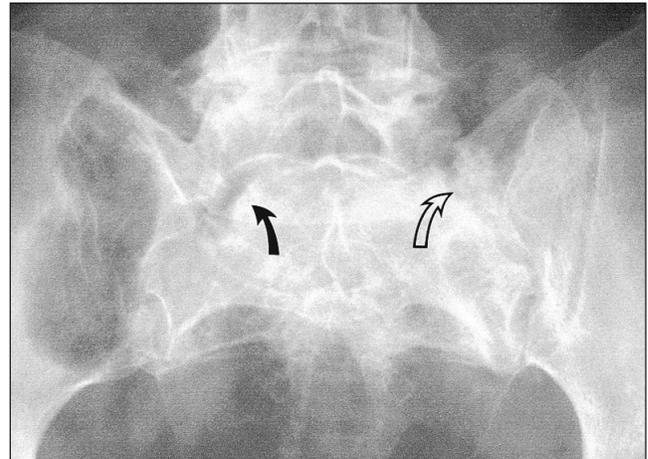


FIG. 3.

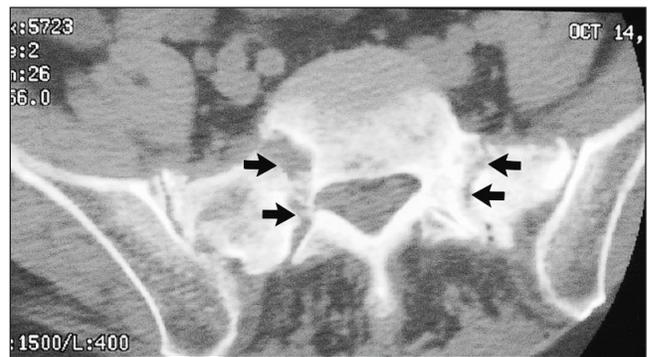


FIG. 4.

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