

MUSCULOSKELETAL CASE 11. PRESENTATION

A 36-year-old woman presented with sudden onset of calf pain which became more severe over 48 hours. Several months previously she had undergone surgery for disrupted cruciate ligaments.

On physical examination the calf was hot and swollen and the patient was running a low-grade fever. Deep venous thrombosis was suspected. However, the presence of a joint effusion was also noted and it was considered important to exclude the pres-

ence of a joint infection. Approximately 25 mL of blood-tinged synovial fluid was aspirated. Contrast medium was then injected. The lateral view of the knee after injection of contrast medium demonstrated a large partially opacified cavity in communication with the knee joint, extending into the posterior aspect of the upper calf (Fig. 1, arrows).

What would be your diagnosis?

For the answer and discussion see page 310.



FIG. 1

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The Maclean–Mueller Prize

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Each year the *Canadian Journal of Surgery* offers a prize of \$1000 for the best manuscript written by a Canadian resident or fellow from a specialty program who has not completed training or assumed a faculty position. The prize-winning manuscript for the calendar year will be published in an early issue (February or April) the following year, and other submissions deemed suitable for publication may appear in a subsequent issue of the Journal.

The resident should be the principal author of the manuscript, which should not have been submitted or published elsewhere. It should be submitted to the *Canadian Journal of Surgery* not later than Oct. 1.

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