Bilateral tight swollen legs

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Published online: 22 April 2009
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History

A 20-year-old female initially presented to the emergency room with a 3-day history of painless swelling involving both legs following exercise. A deep vein thrombosis was suspected and excluded, but she continued to have progressive symptoms in her legs over the next 8 months including pain, tightness of muscles, and skin changes (Fig. 1). Magnetic resonance imaging of the bilateral legs was performed (Fig. 2a–c) followed by full thickness skin to muscle biopsy (Fig. 3a–b).

Fig. 1 Photograph of bilateral shins

The diagnosis can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00256-009-0695-9>.

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Fig. 2 **a** Axial post gadolinium 3D fast acquisition with multiphase EFGRE sequence through both calves (giving a T1-weighted fat-saturated type weighting). **b** Axial FSE T2-weighted fat-saturated sequence through both calves. **c** Axial SE T1-weighted fat-saturated sequence through the left calf

Fig. 3 **a** Histopathology image of the deep fascia (H&E, ×100). **b** Histopathology image of the fascia (H&E, ×200) with *inset* view (H&E, ×400). **c** Histopathology image of the dermis