

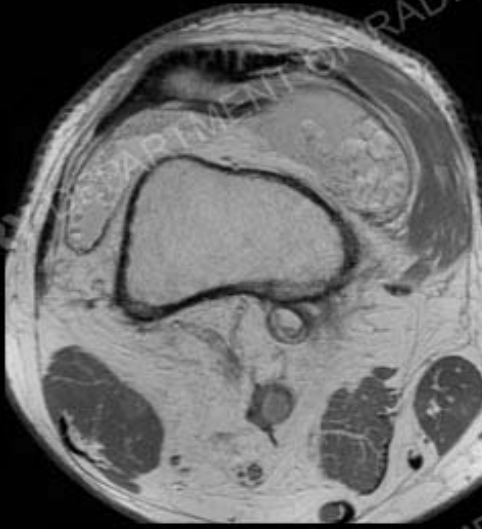


IR Sagittal



PD Sagittal

History: 68 year old man with long standing knee pain



Axial PD



Sagittal PD



Coronal PD

DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY AND IMAGING HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY



Coronal PD



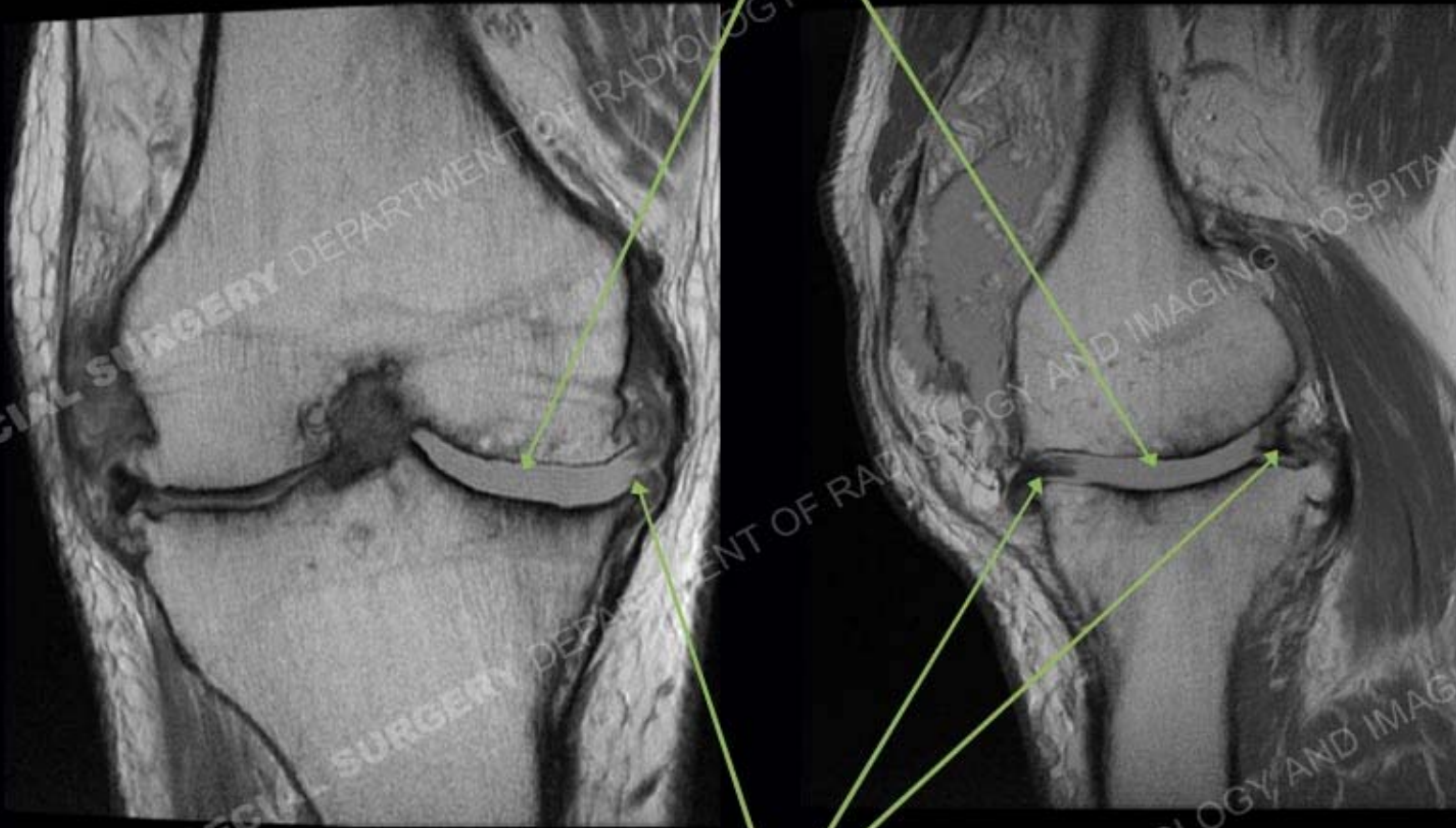
Sagittal PD

Findings

Complete denuding of the cartilage of the medial compartment with a macerated medial meniscus and only degenerated remnants of the medial meniscus. Moderate sized joint effusion with fatty deposition of the synovial lining in a frondular type pattern.

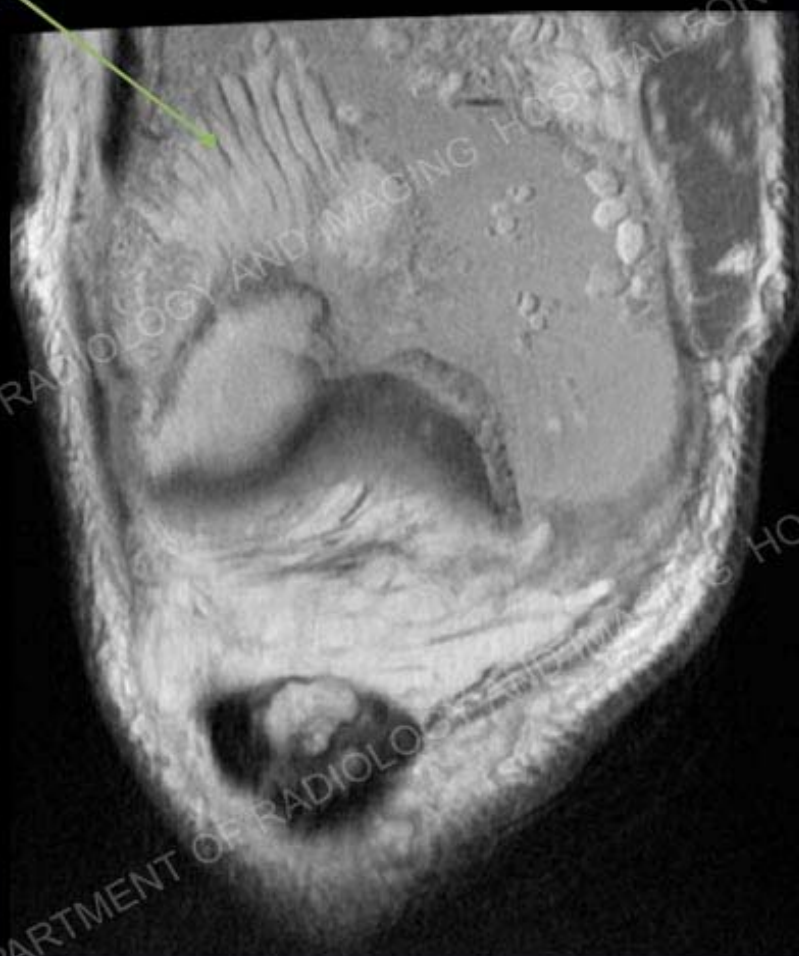


Absence of cartilage



Macerated medial meniscus with degenerated remnants

Fatty infiltration of the synovium in a frondular pattern



Fatty infiltration of the synovium (note how the synovium follows fatty signal on all pulse sequences and is intraarticular as it is surrounded by the effusion)



Diagnosis: Lipoma arborescens

Lipoma arborescens is a benign, intra-articular process that results in fatty deposition in the synovium. It is most typically seen in the setting of a long standing arthrosis. Classically associated with rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory arthropathies, it can be seen as in this case, in the setting of bland, degenerative osteoarthritis. Intra-articular masses are exceedingly rare and this entity should not be confused with a synovial hemangioma, synovial chondroma, or synovial chondrosarcoma. In addition, when viewing studies, frequently, fat insinuates about a knee joint effusion but is not intra-articular. This can be particularly confusing when viewing only one plane but is frequently confirmed when evaluating all planes of imaging.



Resources

- Resnick. Diagnosis of Bone and Joint Disorders. 4th Ed. 2002.

