History

35 year old woman with increasing left foot pain.
Findings

Radiographs demonstrate a soft tissue mass between the first two digits at the level of the metatarsal heads and extending distally. MRI demonstrates a fluid mass interposed between the first and second metatarsal heads containing a prominent amount of synovial proliferation/synovitis.
What's the Diagnosis - Case 21
Soft tissue prominence
What's the Diagnosis - Case 21

- Fluid collection
- Synovial proliferation/ Synovitis
Diagnosis: Tarsal Coalition

In the forefoot, where the digital nerves traverse the deep transverse metatarsal ligament, there is often entrapment with fibrosis. This leads to a Morton’s neuroma. However, also at this location is the intermetatarsal bursa, which usually contains a minimal amount of fluid. With irritation of the nerve or directly of the bursae, an increasing amount of fluid may yield a pathological intermetatarsal bursitis. This may contain synovitis, as is seen in this case. Intemetatarsal bursitis is frequently seen with an underlying Morton’s neuroma, but may be seen in isolation, also as seen in this case.
Resources

Intermetatarsal Spaces: Analysis with MR Bursography, Anatomic Correlation, and Histopathology in Cadavers.


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