OSTEOPATHY DUE TO LOW DOSE METHOTREXATE USE
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Background: Several drugs can cause osteoporosis or osteopathy. Methotrexate (MTX) osteopathy is characterized by pain, osteoporosis, and microfractures. In the literature, osteopathy cases are reported in patients with rheumatic diseases treated with high dose MTX. However, low dose MTX-induced osteopathy is a rare clinical condition. Herein, we present a case who developed osteopathy following treatment with low dose MTX for rheumatoid arthritis.

Case: A 41 year-old female with rheumatoid arthritis who was receiving MTX was admitted to our hospital with severe pain of left leg. She was used MTX treatment, 15 mg weekly. We have not been able to explain the cause of the pain by arthritis or other known causes. In physical examination, left leg was swollen, painful, and tender. All laboratory results are within normal limits. Conventional X-ray showed a fracture. Fracture was visualised by magnetic resonance imaging. The bone mineral density values determined osteopathy. The patient was diagnosed MTX-induced osteopathy. MTX treatment was stopped and severe pain improved after withdrawal of the MTX therapy.

Conclusions: In conclusion, we suggest that low dose MTX can cause osteopathy in patients treated with MTX.