

LETTERS

Red hot foot ... keep Charcot arthropathy in mind

This is in response to a recent practice article in *CMAJ*.¹ Although infection and gout are likely diagnoses in this presentation, Charcot arthropathy needs to be high up on the differential diagnosis list — particularly when a patient has diabetes.¹ The presence of pain is not sufficient to rule out this rapidly deforming disease, and early imaging may not detect the developing process. Prompt intervention (non-weight bearing) can prevent life-altering disfigurement. As a podiatrist, I often see patients with Charcot arthropathy only after the foot has collapsed — early foot protection could have protected their mobility.

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Reference

1. Farris GR, Steinhilber S. An older patient with diabetes and severe foot pain. *CMAJ* 2017;189:E73-5.

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