

An unusual case of bilateral foot drop following laparoscopic cholecystectomy due to intermittent pneumatic compression device

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Dear Editor,

In 2019, my father suffered bilateral peroneal palsy following a cholecystectomy and was the subject of a case study which was published in the South Asian Journal of Emergency medicine by Mansoor et al.¹

Prior to his surgery, he was a regular competitor in 5k races and represented Ireland in the British and Irish cross-country championships in the over 70 age categories.

During his post operative period, he developed sudden onset footdrop later diagnosed as bilateral peroneal nerve injury he was discharged from hospital using a Zimmer frame to assist his mobility. He also required the installation of ramp access to his home, as he was unable to climb steps safely.

While awaiting a definite diagnosis, he began intensive rehabilitation and physiotherapy, which included balance exercises, mobility practice, neuromuscular stimulation and cycling on a static bicycle while wearing splints. He eventually progressed to using one walking stick and later, independent mobility without any aid.

His neurology outpatient course in the case reported at 5-months showed some improvements however, this is an update on how he has done since. Since the case was reported, his recovery has been remarkable due to his perseverance and belief that he could regain his previous fitness levels and return to his favorite hobby, running, and getting back to the same level of functioning.

Recently he completed a half marathon in under two hours and runs 10k several times a week. He climbs in his native Donegal on a weekly basis and stood on top of Errigal, Donegal's highest mountain (750m) on his seventy-eighth birthday with his granddaughter. What he has demonstrated is that with determination, perseverance and correct medical support, recovery from severe neurological injury can be achieved.

Sincerely,

A proud daughter.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest:

None declared.

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1. Mansoor S, Murphy K, Kelly S. An unusual case of bilateral foot drop following laparoscopic cholecystectomy due to intermittent pneumatic compression device. SAJEM. 2020;3(2):1.