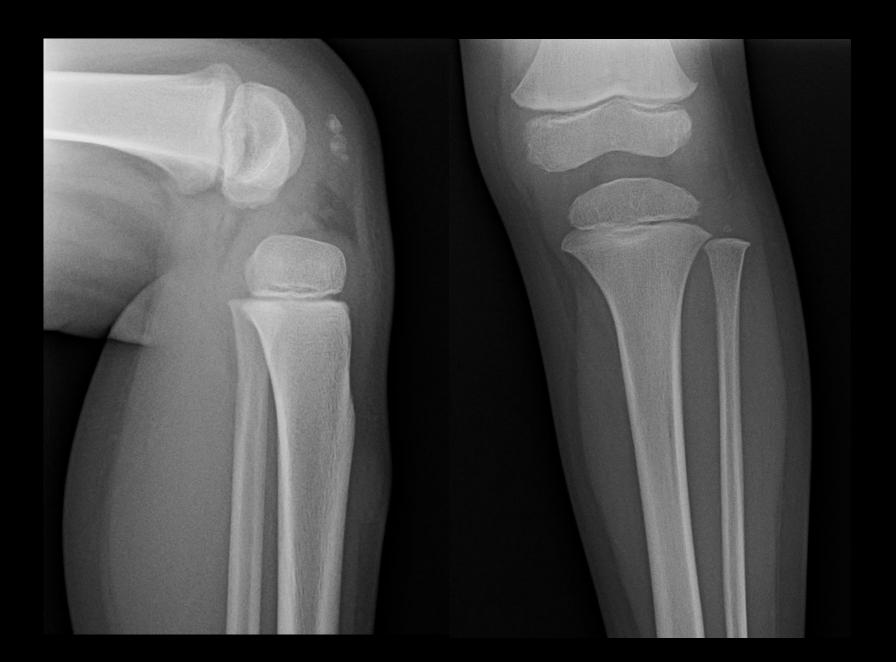
History:

- 3 year old female with 4 month history of pretibial swelling.
 - No known trauma.
 - Not painful.
 - No overlying skin abnormality.
 - Otherwise healthy.



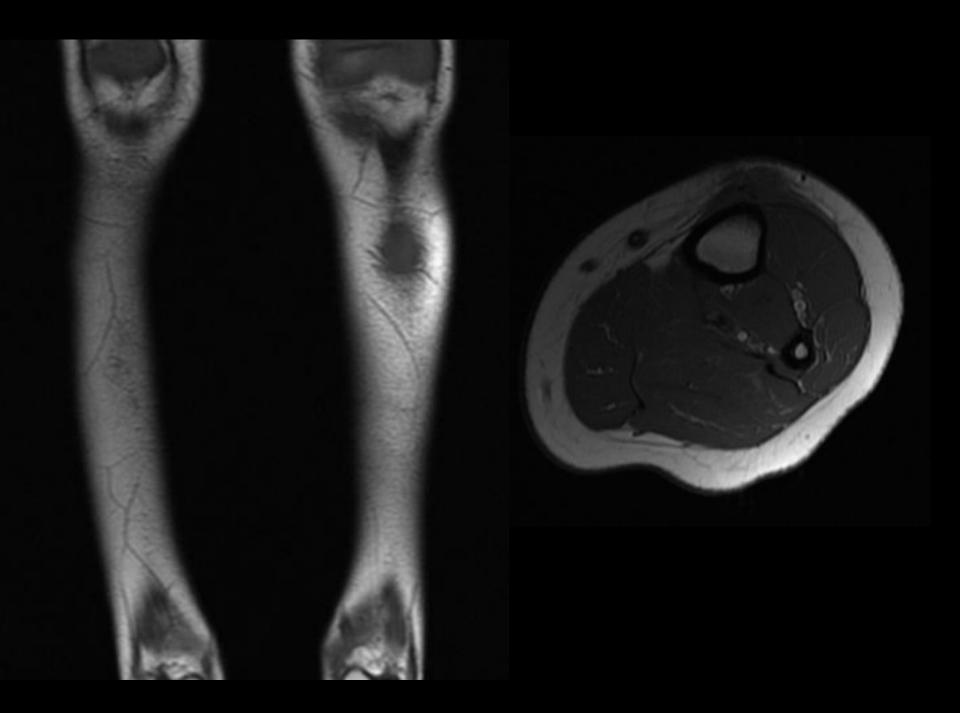


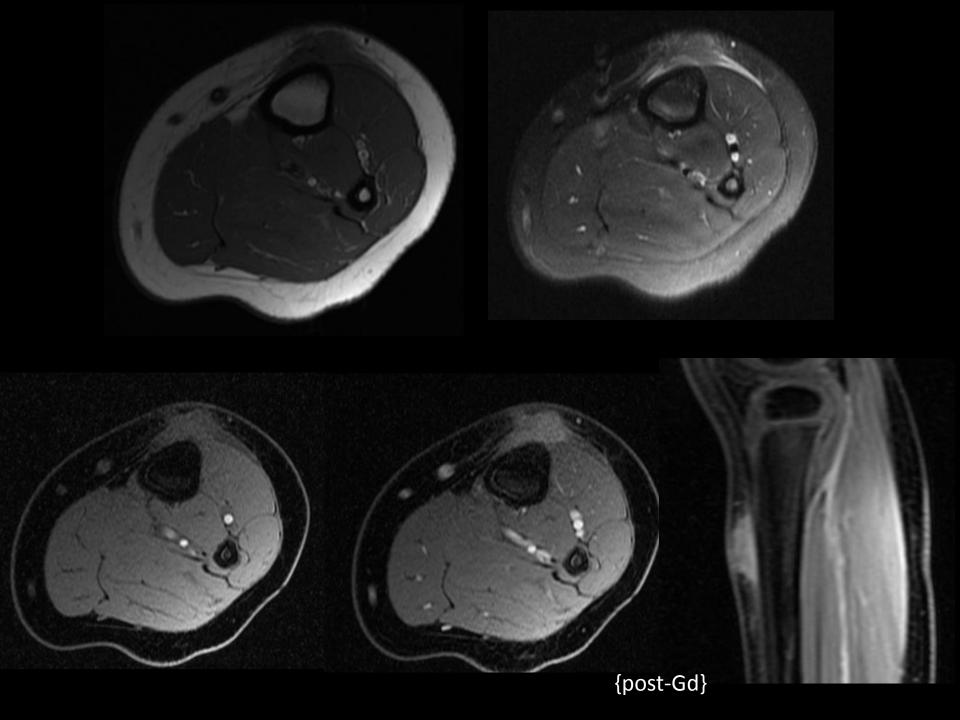


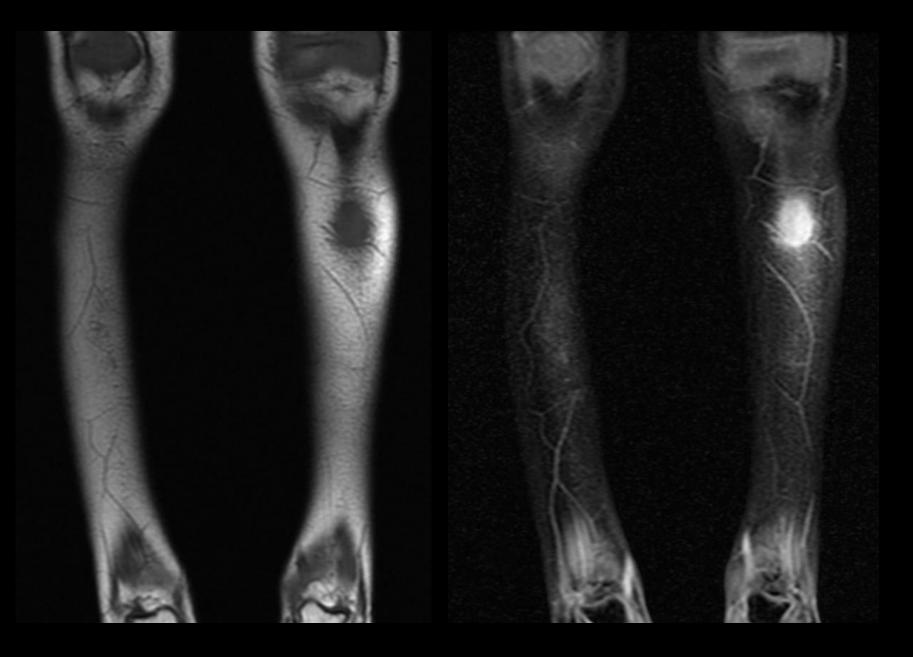
AEC ::.'→ !:∺



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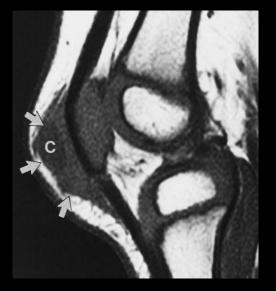
Granuloma Annulare

- Benign group of inflammatory dermatoses.
 - Dermal papules with tendency to form rings.
 - Four Types:
 - Localized
 - Generalized *
 - Perforating
 - Subcutaneous
 - Almost exclusively in young children
 - No skin involvement



Subcutaneous Granuloma Annulare (SGA)

- Painless, nonmobile, slowly growing soft tissue mass without overlying cutaneous abnormality.
 - Often solitary
 - Most common in the lower extremities
 - Pretibial, foot, ankle
 - Scalp, finger (rarely).
- Infancy to young adults (2-5 years of age)
 without definite gender predilection.
- Healthy and no antecedent trauma
 - Often allows clinical differentiation from
 - Rheumatoid nodules
 - Fat necrosis
 - Foreign body reaction
 - Abscess, infectious granuloma
- Spontaneously regress, months to years.
- Not associated with RA, CTD or lymphoproliferative disorders...



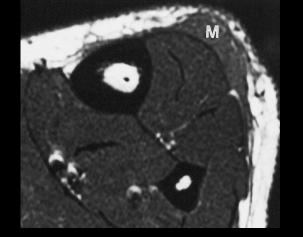
 T_1

T2-FS

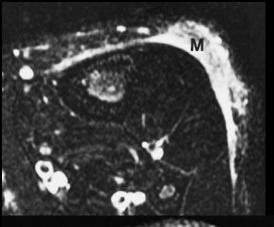
2 1/2-year-old girl with a painless prepatellar mass

SGA Imaging Findings:

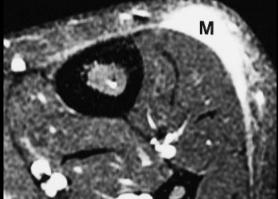
- Ovoid, curvilinear mass with epicentre in the subcutaneous fat.
- Nearly always extends to, but not deep to, the superficial fascia.
 - Periosteum, cortex, bone marrow normal
- T1: iso/slight higher than muscle
- T2: variable...
- Gd: homogenous enhancement
 - May be well-circumscribed, or have enhancing reticulation into adjacent soft tissue.
- Pertinent negatives:
 - Intralesional fat (lipoma, fat necrosis)
 - Cystic spaces (lymphangioma)
 - Vascularity (vascular malformations)
 - No calcified matrix



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T2-FS

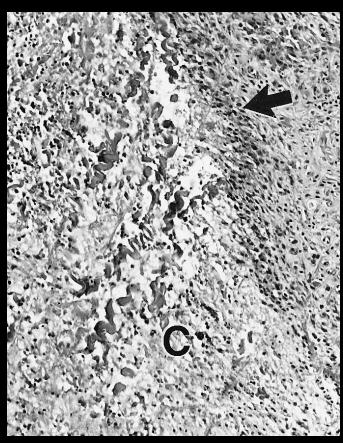


T1-FS Post-Gd

Chung S, et al Radiology. 1999 Mar;210(3):845-9.

Why is it important to suggest SGA in the DDx?

- Imaging findings can be characteristic, "almost certainly SGA", but ultimately tissue diagnosis or close clinical/imaging f/u to establish resolution is required...
- Limited incision biopsy recommended if Dx not clear on clinical and imaging grounds.
 - FNA not reliable ("palisading architecture")
 - Excisional biopsy not necessary
 - scar, skin graft, infection risk, tendency to recur
 - *natural history of resolution (months to years).
- Mucin staining necessary to differentiate from Rheumatoid nodule
 - Not a routine stain.



A mucinous central zone of amorphous, degenerated, connective tissue (C) is surrounded by a typical palisade of epithelioid and multinucleated histiocytes (arrow)

References:

- Chung S, Frush DP, Prose NS, Shea CR, Laor T, Bisset GS. Subcutaneous granuloma annulare: MR imaging features in six children and literature review. Radiology. 1999 Mar;210(3):845-9.
- De Maeseneer M, Vande Walle H, Lenchik L, Machiels F, Desprechins B. Subcutaneous granuloma annulare: MR imaging findings. Skeletal Radiol. 1998 Apr;27(4):215-7.
- Kransdorf MJ, Murphey MD, Temple HT. Subcutaneous granuloma annulare: radiologic appearance. Skeletal Radiol. 1998 May;27(5):266-70.
- My Aunt's Facebook Account.