Amyloid myopathy: An underdiagnosed entity

Sir,

Immunoglobulin light chain amyloidosis is a rare systemic disease that results from the secretion of a monoclonal light chain of lambda or kappa type by clonal plasma cells in the bone marrow.[1,2] Amyloid myopathy is an unusual manifestation of amyloid light (AL) chain disease and is often misdiagnosed because of its atypical clinical manifestations.[3] Herein, we report an uncommon case of amyloid myopathy, where the preliminary work-up for systemic amyloidosis was non-contributory and a definitive diagnosis was made on muscle biopsy.

A 57-year-old gentleman presented with a 6-month history of stiffness and vague tightness in the leg muscles after walking for a distance of 500 m. He was forced to take rest for at least 10–15 min before walking again. The symptoms were progressive, and at the time of admission, he was not able to walk for even 50 m. He had a similar feeling of stiffness in the upper limb, jaw, and neck muscles. He also had hoarseness of voice, numbness and tingling in both the forefeet and lateral three fingers, and a significant loss of weight. There was no positive history pertaining to cranial nerve involvement, thinning of limbs, fasciculations, or bowel and bladder disturbances. Family, drug, and past history were non-contributory.