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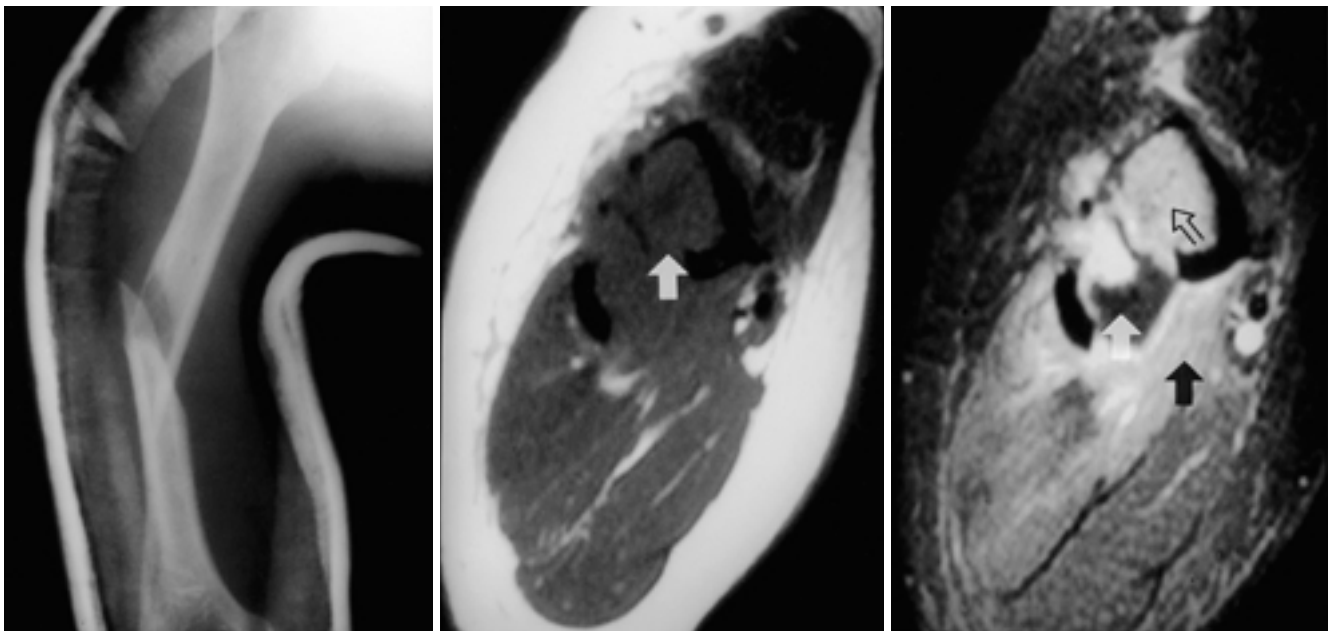
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**Fig. 1.** Pathologic fracture of the humeral diaphysis in a 51-year-old woman with metastatic breast cancer.  
**A.** AP view of the right humerus shows oblique fracture of the diaphysis without destruction or sclerosis.  
**B.** Axial T1-weighted image shows cortical disruption and replacement of normal bone marrow with low signal intensity mass[white arrow].  
**C.** Gd-DTPA enhanced, fat-suppressed axial T1-weighted image shows enhanced bone marrow mass[open arrow], non-enhanced hematoma (white arrow), and surrounding soft tissue hyperemia (black arrow).

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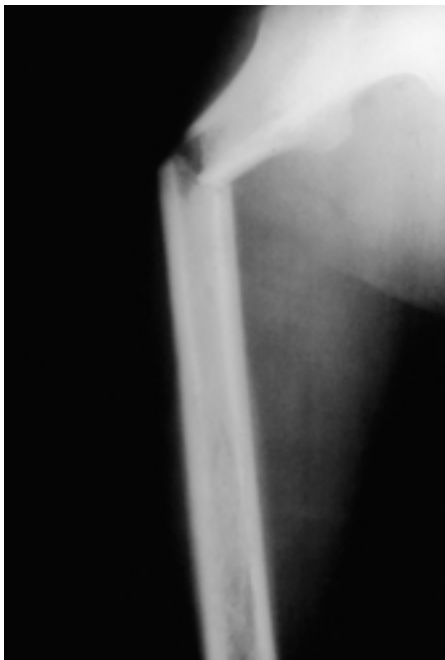
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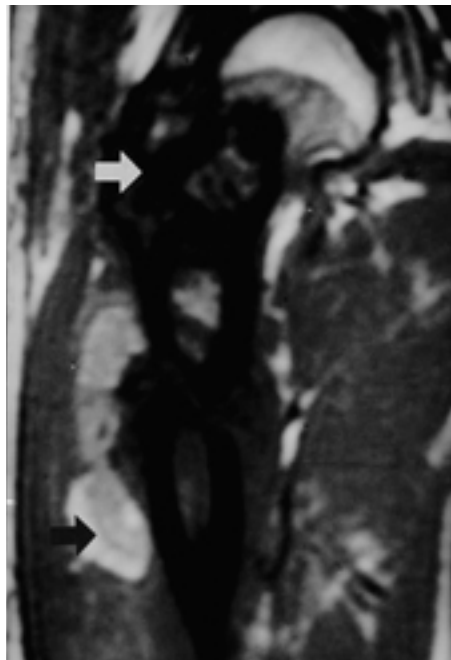
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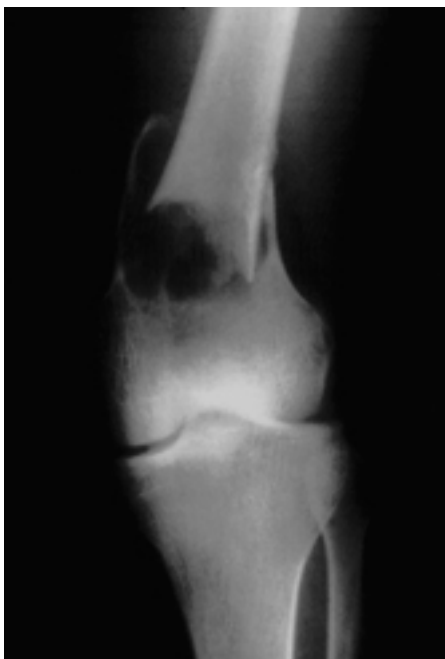


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**Fig. 2.** Pathologic fracture of the right proximal femur in a 19-year-old man with acute osteomyelitis.

**A.** AP view of the right femur shows transverse fracture at the proximal diaphysis with angular deformity. Permeative bone destruction and periosteal reaction are seen in the mid and distal diaphysis, but there is no destruction or periosteal reaction at the fracture area.

**B.** T1-weighted coronal image shows osteomyelitis of the fracture area with low signal intensity (white arrow). Soft tissue hematoma with high signal intensity (black arrow) is seen.



A



B

**Fig. 3.** Pathologic fracture of the left distal femur in a 17-year-old woman with aneurysmal bone cyst.

**A.** AP view of the left knee shows telescopic fracture through an expansile osteolytic lesion in the distal metaphysis of the femur.

**B.** Gd-DTPA enhanced, fat-suppressed T1-weighted coronal image shows an expansile mass containing enhanced solid (black arrow) and non-enhanced cystic (white arrow) components. Surrounding hyperemic change is seen.

224

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## Usefulness of MR Imaging in Pathologic Fracture of Long Bone<sup>1</sup>

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to evaluate the usefulness of MR imaging of pathologic fractures of the long bones.

**Materials and Methods:** In 18 patients aged between four and 75 (mean, 25.8) years with histologically confirmed pathologic fractures of the long bones, plain radiographs and MR images were retrospectively analyzed. The former were examined with regard to location and type of fracture, and the presence or absence of underlying disease causing fracture; and the latter in terms of underlying disease, extraosseous mass formation, and soft tissue change.

**Results:** The long bones involved were the femur in nine patients, the humerus in six, and the tibia in three. Underlying diseases were metastatic tumor ( $n=6$ ), benign bone tumor ( $n=5$ ), primary malignant bone tumor ( $n=4$ ), osteomyelitis ( $n=2$ ), and eosinophilic granuloma ( $n=1$ ).

Plain radiographs showed the fracture site as the metaphysis in ten cases, the diaphysis in five, and the meta-diaphysis in one. Fractures were either transverse ( $n=10$ ), oblique ( $n=3$ ), spiral ( $n=1$ ), vertical ( $n=1$ ), or telescopic ( $n=1$ ). In two cases, the fracture line was not visible.

MR images revealed underlying diseases in all cases. A solid mass was present in all cases of malignant bone tumor, and an extraosseous mass in five such cases. Two benign bone tumors took the form of a cystic mass, two were a cystic mass containing an enhanced solid portion, and one was a solid mass. A soft tissue hematoma was seen in three cases.

**Conclusion:** Where pathologic fracture of a long bone had occurred, or a pathologic fracture in which the findings of plain radiography were equivocal, MR imaging was useful for evaluating the pattern and extent of an underlying lesion.

**Index words :** Fractures, MR  
Fractures, pathologic

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