to the same vessel can lead from initial vascular spasm to thrombosis. Such vascular trauma, although rare, has been reported (Buckhout and Warner, 1980 and Lowrey et al, 1978).

Our patient who was in an excellent state of health had repeated falls in water on the abducted right arm. This happened whilst wind-surfing. This led to direct trauma to the axillary artery with subsequent thrombosis. On the basis of the arteriographic findings an arteriotomy with thrombectomy was performed. This led to early, uneventful recovery and early return to sports. Kostianen and Orave, 1982 reported that the thrombosed arteries recanalised in 8 weeks (in two patients out of three), with vasodilator drugs and avoidance of sports. If the arteries fail to recanalise spontaneously then the sportsman will have a limb with compromised circulation which will not sustain strenuous activity. Moreover the delay may lead to permanent tissue changes. An aggressive attitude in such cases is indicated and justified.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank Dr. Mustapha Hassan Badi, FRCSI, PhD, for his help in the management of the patient.

References


OBITUARY

Harold Burton Lee, TD, MB, BS, FRCS 1909-1985

Harold Lee was unique. Professionally he was an Orthopaedic Surgeon who had a special interest in children and as well as Barts had an appointment as medical officer in charge of the now closed Alexandra Hospital, Luton (mainly caring for TB of the hip) for 12 years and then consultant to Notley Hospital. However his name is probably much better known for his two passions, running and singing.

After leaving Highgate School for Barts he joined Orion Harriers and the United Hospitals Hare and Hounds and ran in all for Orion for more than 50 years. He took up running seriously “to cure” a knee injury gained playing football, qualified in 1933 and returned to Barts as Chief Assistant to the Orthopaedic Department in 1936. Being a TA Officer he was called up in 1939 and served with the RAMC for six years in West Africa, France and India, mainly he said “humdrum routine surgery but with six weeks of hectic ‘MASH’ operating on Allied and German battle casualties in vast numbers in Normandy in the Summer of 1944.” He was mentioned in despatches and held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After the war he completed several marathons and in 1947 came 13th in the AAA marathon and received 3rd place in the London to Brighton Race in 1951, the first year it was run. He served running indefatigably as an official both as medical officer and eventually President of the Road Runners Club and more recently was one of the two measurers who certified that the London Marathon was indeed the full distance and slipped into the Thames while doing so. He inspired the Orion 15 Cross-Country Race and helped it to develop into one of the best known “real” cross-country races in the world. Harold was known throughout the world as just “Harold” or “Doc Lee” and was easily recognised at a distance by his Dormobile and two small dogs from whom he was inseparable, and from closer to by his booming voice of encouragement or criticism “You look too happy you are not really trying”, or just “Well done”, Harold’s other commitment was his voice – singing, first attempted on a very slow boat to West Africa but another half of his life particularly after retirement. A member of the Gregorian Association, he died as President of the Madrigal Choir and had as many friends from his singing as from his running. He is quoted as saying his idea of heaven was to run a marathon in the morning and sing Bach’s B minor Mass in the evening. Harold had a gift for making friends and setting an example of commitment to his activities which would be impossible to follow.

Harold Lee joined BASM in 1957. He had a particular interest in the environmental problems of marathon races. He retired in 1975 and died after a long illness in St. Bartholomew’s Hospital earlier this year.

Harold died with no relatives to survive him but left some funds for a large memorial party which was attended by a large number of his friends.

D. S. Tunstall Pedoe