A 42-year-old man had a 2-year history of progressive asymptomatic left calf enlargement. MRI showed diffuse swelling of left calf muscles (figure, A and B); biopsy displayed neurogenic changes (figure, C and D). Electrodagnostic examination results were compatible with left chronic S1 radiculopathy and lumbosacral MRI revealed an ipsilateral L5-S1 disc protrusion encroaching on the foraminal space.

Unilateral calf swelling may be associated with deep vein thrombosis, ruptured popliteal cyst, tumors, trauma, autoimmune disorders, vascular anomalies, focal myositis, and radiculopathy. Neurogenic disorders usually cause muscle atrophy; hypertrophic changes may result from compensatory work of nondenervated muscle fibers and spontaneous electrical activity of denervated muscle fibers.1

Simona Lattanzi, MD, Claudia Cagnetti, MD, Paolo Di Bella, MD, Marina Scarpelli, MD, Leandro Provinciali, MD, Mauro Silvestrini, MD

From the Neurological Clinic, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona, Italy.

Acknowledgment: The authors thank Dr. Francesco Sessa, Department of Neuroradiology, University Hospital of Ancona, Italy, for editing assistance.

Study funding: No targeted funding reported.

Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

Correspondence to Dr. Lattanzi: alfierelattanzisimona@gmail.com


© 2014 American Academy of Neurology

© 2014 American Academy of Neurology. Unauthorized reproduction of this article is prohibited.