Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever with Compartment Syndrome of the Legs: A Case Report

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We report a case of laboratory-confirmed dengue infection with compartment syndrome. A 23-year-old man had fever, headache and generalized myalgia for 5 days and was admitted to King Chulalongkorn memorial Hospital. The clinical picture and investigation was suggested diagnosis of dengue shock syndrome. Dengue virus type 2 was detected from patient’s blood by RT-PCR test on 3rd day of hospitalization. The patient was transferred to the intensive care unit because of severe manifestation of plasma leakage. Supportive therapy was immediately administered which included fluid resuscitation with normal saline solution and vasopressor drugs, platelets, packed red blood cells and fresh frozen plasma. After resuscitation, he developed an acute anterior compartment syndrome in both legs without an associated contusion or fracture. This syndrome was treated successfully with bilateral fasciotomies of both legs, but was complicated by postoperative bleeding at fasciotomy wounds requiring massive blood transfusion. However, patient responded well with improvement in perfusion of both legs and subsidence of pressure. The patient made good recovery and was discharged after 6 weeks of hospitalization.