

9. Temporo-mandibular arthritis (a rare diagnosis) (Case report)

by P. F. G. M. VAN WAES, and D. SCHONFELD

Department of Roentgenology, University Hospital, Utrecht (Netherlands)

Female, age 34, suffering from polyarticular rheumatoid arthritis during 2 years. Seronegative, ESR 37 mm/l hr, elevated total protein.

23.6.1975

X-hands: soft tissue swelling around proximal interphalangeal joint of dig. II r.

X-knees: no abnormalities.

Thermogram knees (Fig. 1): r. knee temp. 32-34" C, with hot spot on the patella. L. knee shows hot spots on medial and lateral aspects of knee, i.e. 33" C.

11.9.1975

Thermogram hands (Fig. 2): r. metacarpal 32" C with a temperature elevation in dig. II. L. hand slightly elevated temperature in the metacarpal regions.

10.2.1976

Thermogram hands (Fig. 2): changes emission pattern. R. metacarpal regions show a temperature of 30-32" C; dig. III 32-33" C and dig. II 28-29" C. These hot spots are marked on the profile scan.

Thermogram of mandibular joints (Fig.

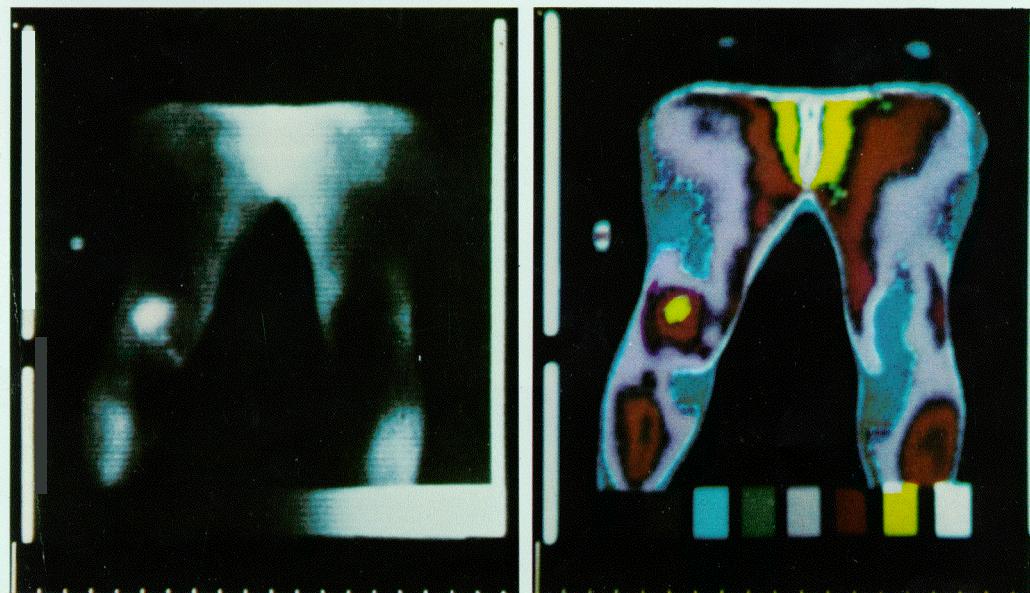
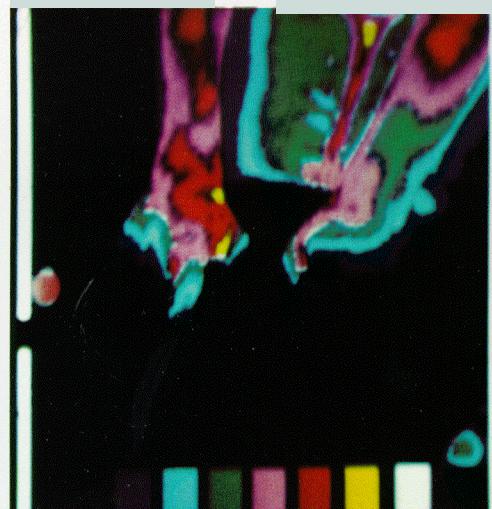
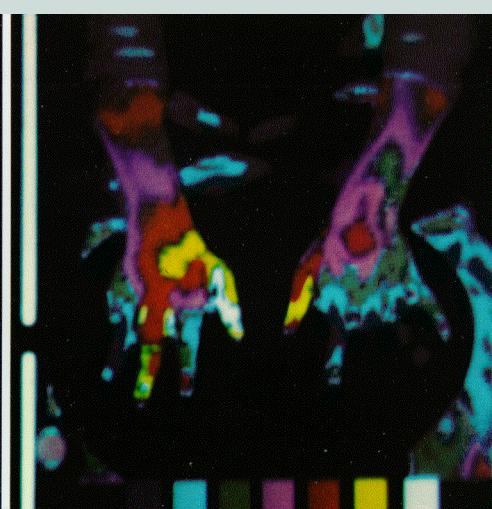


Fig. I. Thermograms of anterior knees showing hyperthermia of the right joint.



A



B



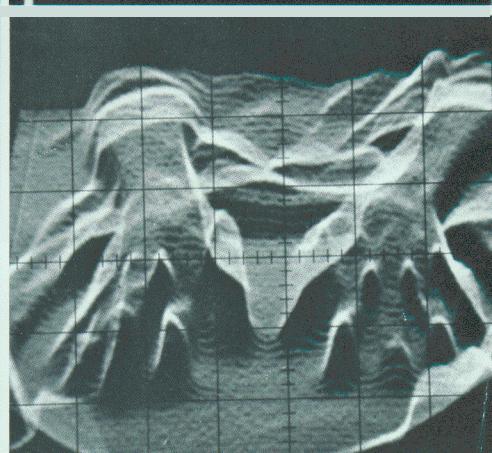
A



B



A



B

Fig. 2. A) Thermograms of hands; B) Changes emission pattern after six months.

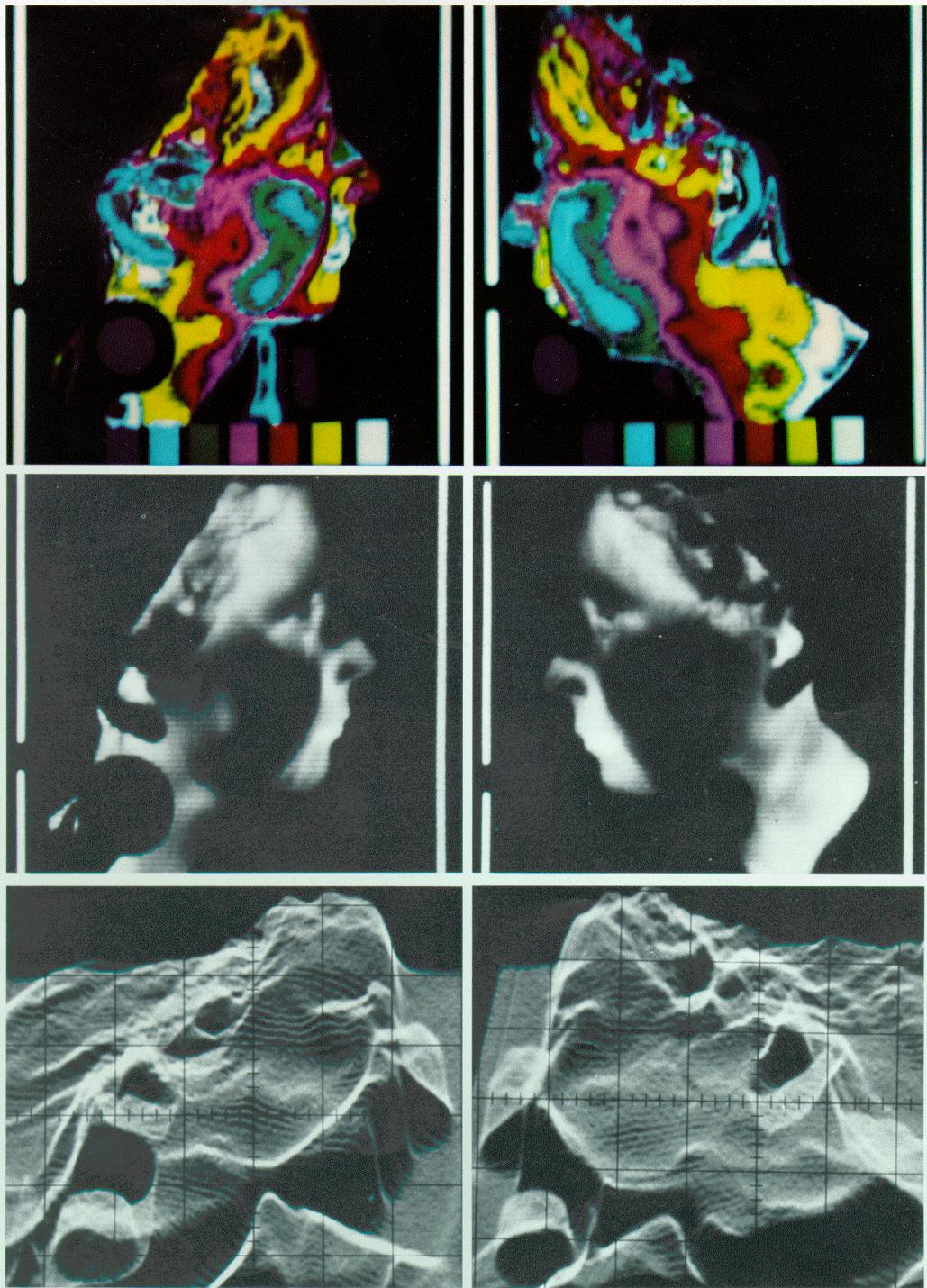


Fig. 3. Lateral thermograms face showing temporal mandibular hyperthermia of the left side.

3): from the end on 1974 increasing complaints about the 1. mandibular joint, Thermographs of the r. mandibular joint shows a normal pattern, with a temperature of 33° C. The 1. joint however shows a marked hot spot of 34-35° C.

Clinical diagnosis: pressure ulcer and articular dysfunction, possibly associated with an arthritis of bacterial origin due

to a non-fitting dental prothesis. After correction of this prothesis there was rapid relief of pain and decreasing signs of arthritis.

Conclusion: thermography demonstrated finally the serious nature of patients long-standing complaints. The rheumatoid aspects of this arthritis is still uncertain.

