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MUNCHAUSEN'S SYNDROME: A RARE SELF-MUTILATION SYNDROME

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Munchausen's syndrome is a rare condition, in which the patient recurrently seeks medical care for a factitious illness. People with Munchausen's syndrome consciously feign physical symptoms and signs because of apparently senseless need assume a sick role. The patients with this syndrome may visit many doctors and hospitals feigning acute, usually dramatic illnesses. They are willing to submit themselves to invasive diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Because Munchausen syndrome is a risk to both the patient and the health care providers, its awareness is important for every practitioner. In patients with Munchausen's syndrome, the goal of the physician is early recognition of the psychiatric condition. We presented a 36-year-old woman who applied to our clinic with a nonhealing chronic wound located on proximal posterolateral left arm. She was operated 15 times in three years but did not heal as well.