LESS IS MORE
Chronic Concern Over an Acute-Phase Reactant
A Teachable Moment

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A 59-year-old man with a history of shoulder and knee pain presented to our clinic reporting 6 years of left osteoarthritic hip pain. His pain had been progressive, and at the time of presentation, he required the use of a cane for support. The results of radiologic studies showed a loss of joint space with thinning of the upper aspect of the left hip joint with bone-on-bone appearance and subchondral cyst formation. The femoral head articular contour showed flattening and severe atrophy on x-ray. He had no history of prior joint replacement or cardiovascular disease. He was referred to the orthopedic surgery clinic, where he was deemed an appropriate candidate and scheduled for total hip arthroplasty. The operation was subsequently canceled when preoperative screening laboratory test results revealed an elevated serum C-reactive protein (CRP) level of 11.6 mg/L (to convert to nanomoles per liter, multiply by 9.524).

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.