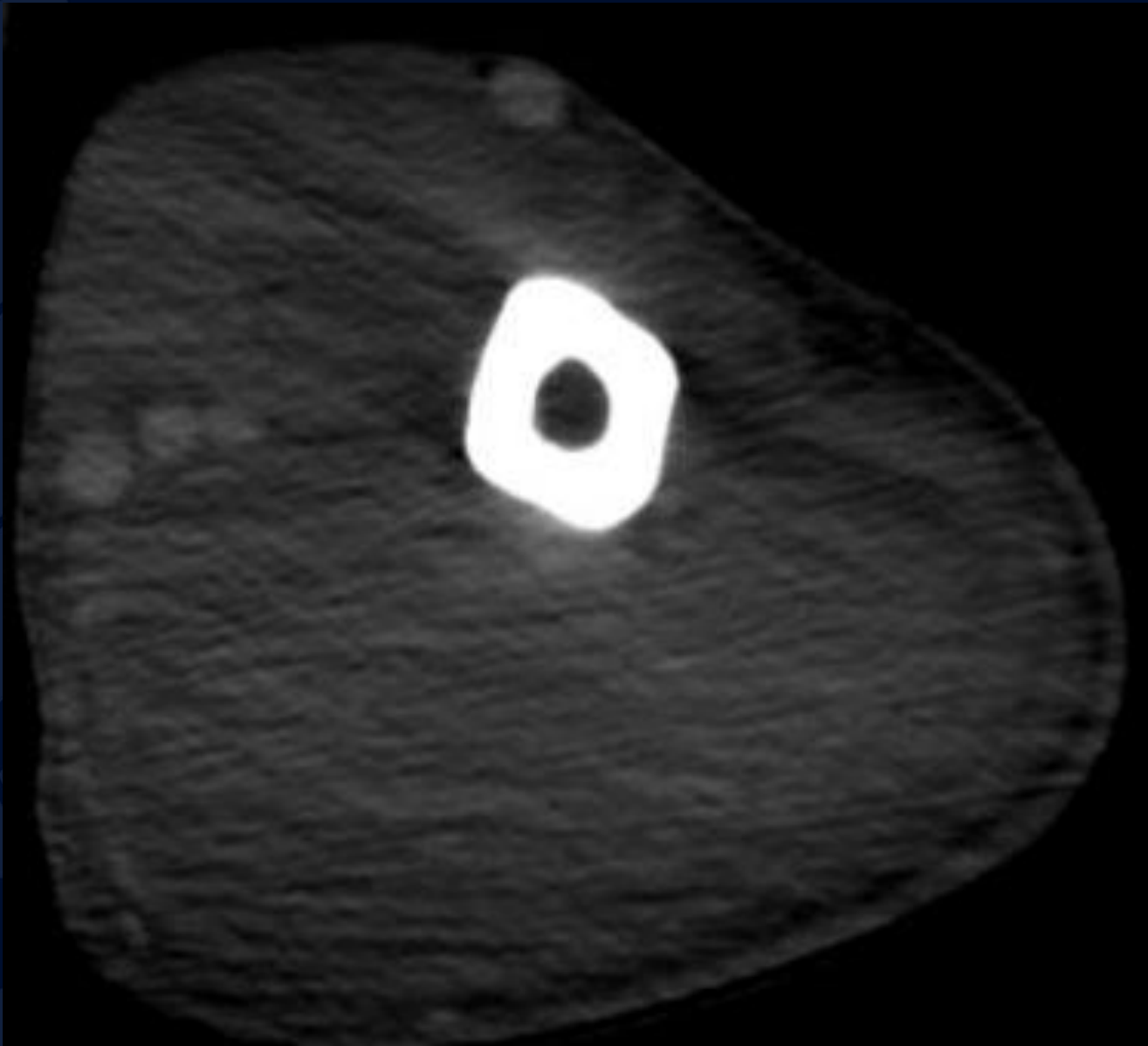


37 y/o male with history of IV drug abuse who now presents with upper extremity erythema and swelling.

Atul Kumar, MD, MS
Daniel E. Marrero, MD



Lateral
Radiograph of
Left Elbow



Axial CT of Left
Upper Extremity



Sagittal CT of Left
Upper Extremity

A large, stylized oak leaf graphic in a dark blue color, positioned on the left side of the slide. It features detailed vein patterns and a lobed edge.

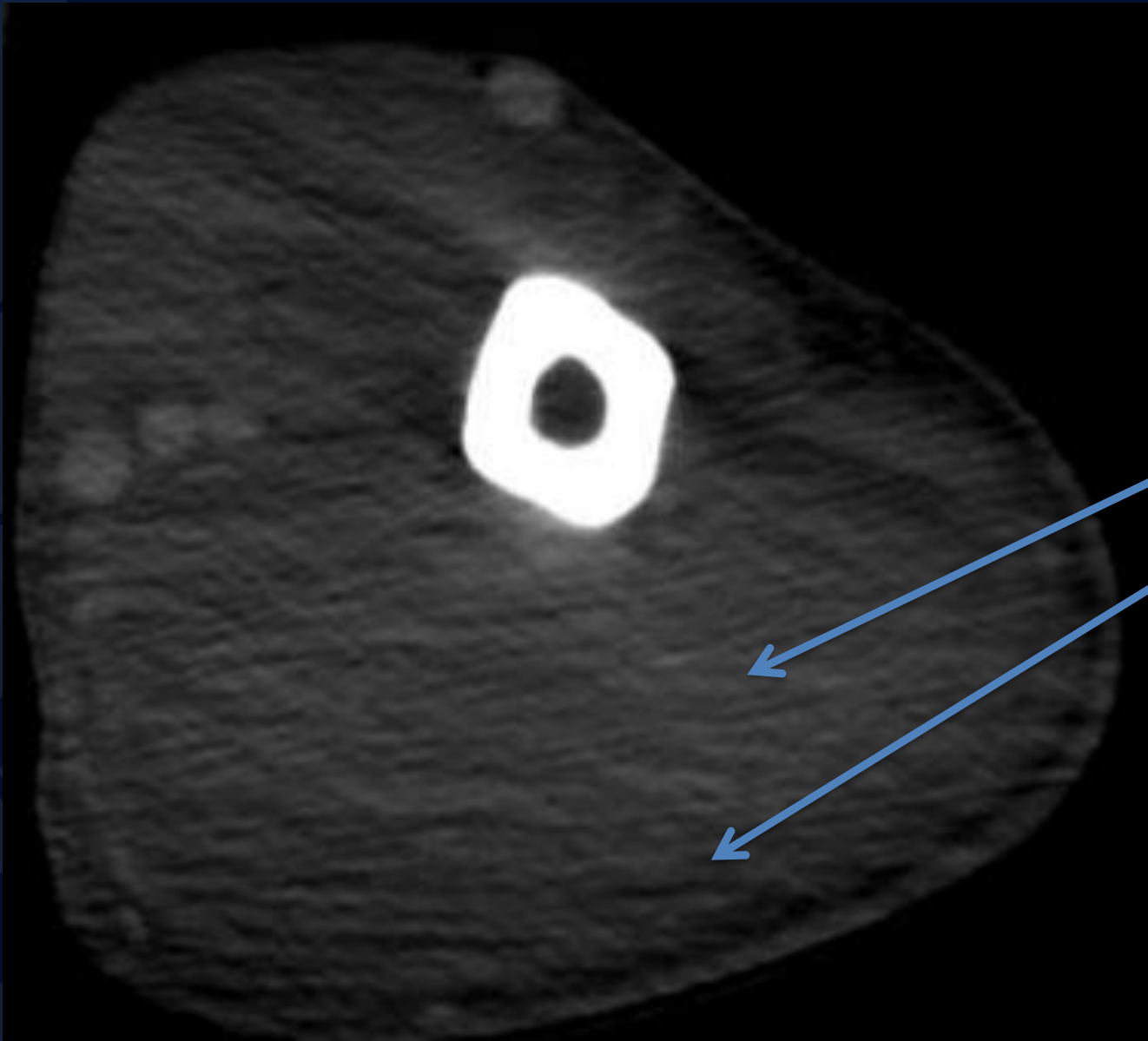
?

Necrotizing Fasciitis



Lateral Radiograph of Left Elbow

Loss of normal soft
tissue planes
indicating
intramuscular
edema



Axial CT of Left
Upper Extremity

Muscle edema
with loss of
fascial borders

Sagittal CT of Left
Upper Extremity



Muscle edema

Necrotizing Fasciitis

- Soft tissue infection which is rapidly progressive
- Often begins in superficial fascia, with subsequent extension into deep fascia
- Necrosis caused by microvascular occlusion
- More common in elderly or immunocompromised patients
- Mortality 30-70%
- Due to high mortality, imaging studies should not delay clinical diagnosis and surgical debridement
- Soft tissue gas is only seen in minority of cases

References

- Chaudhry, A. A., Baker, K. S., Gould, E. S., & Gupta, R. (2015). Necrotizing Fasciitis and Its Mimics: What Radiologists Need to Know. *American Journal of Roentgenology*, 204(1), 128-139. doi:10.2214/ajr.14.12676
- Fugitt, J. B., Puckett, M. L., Quigley, M. M., & Kerr, S. M. (2004). Necrotizing Fasciitis. *RadioGraphics*, 24(5), 1472-1476. doi:10.1148/rg.245035169