

**IMAGES IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE****Musculoskeletal**

# A man with sudden onset calf pain

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## 1 | PATIENT PRESENTATION

A 37-year-old male presented to the emergency department with sudden onset left calf pain. He had been playing tennis when he felt a snapping sensation in the posterior left ankle. He had no medical history and no recent history of antibiotic use. There was a palpable Achilles tendon gap present when the ankle was examined in dorsiflexion, and squeezing the ipsilateral calf did not result in plantarflexion (Figure 1 and Supporting Information Video S1).



**FIGURE 1** The Simmonds-Thompson test is conducted, and is positive on the left side. When the left calf is squeezed, there is an absence of plantarflexion, suggesting disruption of the Achilles tendon

## 2 | DIAGNOSIS

### 2.1 | Achilles tendon rupture

The Simmonds–Thompson test was positive in the left leg (Supporting Information Video S1). This test indicates Achilles tendon rupture and is positive in the absence of plantarflexion of the foot when the calf is squeezed. Although it cannot differentiate partial thickness tears, this clinical examination has a high sensitivity and positive predictive value for the presence of Achilles tendon disruption.<sup>1</sup> He was managed conservatively but represented to the orthopedic clinic 3 months later with the same snapping sensation sustained during physiotherapy. The patient then opted for surgical management, and made a good recovery.

## REFERENCE

1. Kauwe M. Acute achilles tendon rupture: clinical evaluation, conservative management, and early active rehabilitation. *Clin Podiatr Med Surg*. 2017;34(2):229–243.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.

**How to cite this article:** Ali MA. A man with sudden onset calf pain. *JACEP Open*. 2020;1:1752.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12271>