A 53-year-old female patient presented with severe right shoulder swelling with intermittent fever 2 weeks after acupuncture therapy to the right shoulder. The shoulder pain and swelling had worsened gradually and swelling started to extend into the arm. Physical examination revealed fever with tenderness over the right shoulder. Lab investigations showed elevated C-reactive protein. The shoulder radiographs revealed soft tissue swelling and subluxation of right shoulder joint (Figure 1a). Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) revealed right shoulder septic arthritis with pus formation, which extended into subcutaneous layer (Figure 1b–d). Blood cultures grew *Staphylococcus aureus*. Right shoulder subluxation was reduced spontaneously after debridement operation (Figure 1e). The patient recovered well after an emergent debridement followed by a full course of antimicrobial therapy and physical therapy.

**Figure 1.** (a) Plain radiograph of right shoulder. Shoulder subluxation was noted (arrow). (b) MRI of right shoulder in T1 sequence in coronal section. Shoulder septic arthritis and huge soft tissue abscess formation was noted (arrow). (c) MRI of right shoulder in T2 sequence in coronal section. Shoulder septic arthritis and huge soft tissue abscess formation was noted (arrow). (d) MRI of right shoulder in T1 sequence in cross section. Huge soft tissue abscess formation was noted (arrow). (e) Plain radiograph of right shoulder after debridement and drainage surgery. Spontaneous reduction of subluxation was noted (arrow).

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with the majority in the form of case reports. The case described was one of soft tissue infection after acupuncture, which should be suspected in patients with history of previous acupuncture. All acupuncturists should follow strict infection control guidelines including hand washing, routine use of gloves, aseptic disinfection, appropriate wound dressing and usage of disposable needles.

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