History
15 year old with pain and swelling.

Diagnosis
Infrapatellar Plica

Additional Clinical
History of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

Discussion
Plicae are embryologic remnants of synovial membranes. Plicae are variable in shape and extent. The most commonly encountered plicae are the suprapatellar, mediopatellar and infrapatellar. The infrapatellar plica is also known as the ligamentum mucosum is the most commonly seen plica. The infrapatellar plica separates the medial and lateral compartments of the knee. The infrapatellar plica is usually thin but often thickens as a result of trauma or inflammation.

Findings
MR-Sagittal IR, T1, PW and T2 images demonstrate a hypointense band extending from the anterior tubercle to the inferior articular surface of the patella. Note the inflammatory change in the suprapatellar bursa related to the patient's known juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

Reference
Kosarek FJ and Helms CA. The MR appearance of the infrapatellar plica. AJR (1999); 172:481-484.
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