

POTT'S DISEASE WITH DISSEMINATED TUBERCULOSIS IN A 2-YEAR-OLD TODDLER: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction: Spine Tuberculosis (STB) is a destructive form of tuberculosis with increasing prevalence across the globe but with succinct data regarding its prevalence in toddlers. STB is a very dangerous type of skeletal TB as it can be associated with neurological deficit due to compression of the adjacent neural structures and significant spinal deformity. Hence, early detection of it is important.

Discussion: A 2-year-old toddler presented to us with persistent fever and unable to sit and ambulate for 2 months duration. On examination, gibbus deformity was noted over his back. Bilateral lower limb power was 2/5 over L2-S1 myotomes. Child was unable to bear weight and ambulate. Clinical examination and radiological investigation were strongly suggestive of STB as there was evidence of destructive lesion involving L1 vertebra giving rise to gibbus deformity along with a large paravertebral collection extending from T2 to S2. Further history revealed that the parents were both positive for tuberculosis. He was then started on anti-TB drugs and his progress was monitored. He was planned for 12 months of anti-TB treatment. After 1 month on intensive phase, the toddler showed remarkable improvement in neurological recovery. He was able to stand and ambulate by himself.

Conclusion: Pott's disease might be rare in Peninsular Malaysia however its prevalence in Borneo is high. The therapeutic goal in children is to heal the tuberculosis with minimum residual deformity and without neurological sequelae. This case serves to be a good example that anti-TB drugs alone without surgery is effective in treating Pott's disease with excellent improvement in neurology. We should also aim to screen rural areas in East Malaysia for tuberculosis as its prevalence is still increasing.