

## **SURGICAL SITE INFECTION FOLLOWING LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT HEPARIN TREATMENT FOR PULMONARY EMBOLISM POST SCOLIOSIS CORRECTIVE SURGERY**

Ong Kean Loong<sup>1</sup>, Ikhwan Abd Samad<sup>1</sup>, Nor Azlin Zainal Abidin<sup>1</sup>, Thuraikumar Kanniah<sup>1</sup>, Amir Fariz Zakaria<sup>1</sup>, Faizal Manan<sup>1</sup>, Wang Chee Seiang<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hospital Sungai Buloh

**Introduction:** Pulmonary embolism (PE) remains one of the rare but major risks following spinal surgery<sup>1</sup>. Risk of DVT with PE in spinal surgery ranges between 0.048%-3.14%<sup>2</sup> but the incidence of PE alone remains unknown.<sup>3</sup> We present a case of PE post-surgery further complicated with surgical site infection.

**Discussion:** A 13-year-old girl with no known medical illness had undergone 4.5 hours long scoliosis corrective surgery due to adolescent idiopathic scoliosis. She then developed persistent tachycardia with ECG changes on day 2 post-operation without any respiratory symptoms. CT pulmonary angiography showed pulmonary embolism at the bilateral subsegmental branch of the pulmonary artery. She was treated with low molecular weight heparin (LMWH). As a result, she developed weeping wound which later became infected with E. Coli ESBL. After 2 weeks of IV Meropenem, multiple wound debridement and vacuum-assisted closure, her wound was closed with secondary suturing. There was no neurological deficit postoperatively.

**Conclusion:** Administration of LWMH post-surgery increases the risk of wound infection as shown by Sanchez-Ballester et al<sup>4</sup>. However, in this case, it was warranted for the treatment of PE.