

TRAUMATIC CENTRAL CORD SYNDROME WITH CORD LACERATION WITH UNDERLYING CONGENITAL SPINE DEFORMITY : A CASE REPORT

Nasrul Hanif Mohamad¹, Muhammad Redza Ihsan Rosli², Amrik Singh Ranjit Singh², Normawathy Amir Osman²

¹Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia, ²Penang General Hospital

Introduction: Traumatic central cord syndrome (TCCS) is the most frequently encountered incomplete spinal cord injury (SCI) and relatively rare situation in young adolescent. Prognosis is good in most cases and the majority of patients, particularly the young age group have a high recovery rate. We reported a case of TCCS in congenital spine deformity patient with speedy recovery.

Discussion: The patient is a 16 year old boy who developed TCCS following a suspected hyperextension neck injury while playing with his friends. He presented with sudden weakness of bilateral upper limb and lower limb. On examination myotomes of bilateral upper and lower limbs were 1 with impaired sensation from neck downwards, hyporeflexia of upper limb and hyperreflexia of lower limb, and anal tone was intact. CT cervical showed multilevel vertebrae segmentation abnormality and fusion at the cervical and upper thoracic region with cervico-thoracic scoliosis. MRI showed C3 and C4 cord oedema and suspicious cord laceration. Patient was treated conservatively with ASPEN collar and high dose intravenous methylprednisolone for 24 hours. Within three days, there is an improvement of neurological status, in which myotomes of bilateral upper limbs are 4 and of lower limbs are 5. During 3 months follow up in the clinic, he had fully recover and able to do his daily activities as usual.

Conclusion: Central cord syndrome is typically seen in older population with cervical spondylosis and rarely occurs in young adolescent. The prognosis is good in patients presented with TCCS, especially in young age group with early detection and intervention.