

Hip Pain in Children with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities: A Rare Case of Hip TB Septic Arthritis in a Child

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INTRODUCTION:

Tuberculosis (TB) of the hip in children is a rare condition however serious form. Hip TB is more common in children than adults due to underdeveloped immune system making them more susceptible to infections. Paediatric hip TB in Malaysia has limited reported data, it is still known to occur. We present a rare pulmonary & concomitant extrapulmonary TB of the hip in a 11-year-old child in a district hospital & our treatment management.

REPORT:

A child with underlying tuberous sclerosis, epilepsy & intellectual impairment presented with left hip swelling for 4 days & pus discharge, unable to ambulate for a week with fever. Left hip septic arthritis with neglected dislocation of complicated with deep-seated left thigh abscess. Emergency debridement & arthrotomy with reduction of left hip joint were done. Intraoperative findings were osteomyelitis of the left femoral head & left acetabular wall.

Initial specimens post op were negative for cultures & histopathological investigations. His condition did not improve, he underwent multiple debridement till developed miliary TB Left hip joint was unstable & external fixation was used for stabilisation & wound care. His condition was further complicated with miliary TB.



Figure 1: Pelvis X-ray showing dislocated left hip joint

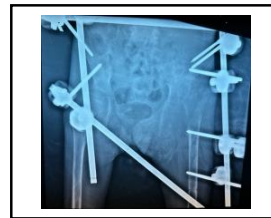


Figure 2: Pelvis X-ray showing cross-pelvis external fixator to immobilise the left hip joint post Girdlestone procedure

DISCUSSION:

TB of the hip can cause significant disability with the most common symptom in children being hip pain which was a hindrance for our patient to complain of due to his underlying impairment.

Microbiological culture, which is the gold standard for diagnosing TB in adults, often fails in children due to the paucibacillary nature of the infection. Once diagnosed, anti-TB treatment should commence. In general, the goal of treatment is to manage the infection, provide good wound care & stabilisation of articular integrity to prevent further damage. Therefore, an external fixator was the best choice of treatment.

CONCLUSION:

Management of septic arthritis of the hip in children is complex & requires a multidisciplinary approach for an optimal outcome.

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