

“MASUK ANGIN” A RARE INCIDENCE OF PNEUMORACHIS

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INTRODUCTION

A common term heard by clinicians when patient describes their illness in Malaysia is “Masuk angin”. It translates to air entered, an exact situation in our case. Pneumorachis air in the spinal canal, term derived from the ancient Greek. It can be classified as extradural or intradural depending on the underlying etiology. Common causes are iatrogenic and blunt trauma¹. Its incidence is uncommon seen in practise. .

REPORT:

A 41 year old gentleman presented to our center with progressive onset of left side weakness for past 5 months, during his first presentation Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed Multilevel disc herniation at level T12 to till S1. Proceeded with Posterior lumbar interbody fusion level of L4 and L5 however review in clinic patient complained of numbness from abdomen below associated with hypertonia of the right lower limb with power of 3-4. Repeated MRI showed disc herniation from C4 to L4 worst at the level of T1 till T5, and we proceed with posterior spinal instrumentation of T1 till T5. During the surgery we encountered cord was severely compressed by ossification of longitudinal ligament (OPLL), complicated with dura tear with cerebrospinal fluid leak, unable to primary repair and dura seal was applied. Post operative patients had acute lower limb complete neurology, urgent MRI done. Our images showed presence of intradural air and was not static in one level. We instantly proceeded with urgent decompression.



MRI - Pneumorachis at level T5

Post operative patient was send for rehabilitation attaining good recovery.

CONCLUSION:

Pneumorachis is a term rarely heard and reported however if encountered, clinicians should take an alarming action to carry out diagnostic workup and management².

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