

Safety and Efficacy of Metallic Implants in the Treatments of Tuberculous Spondylitis

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– Abstract –

Study Design: A retrospective study

Objective: To analyze the safety and effectiveness of treatments using metallic implants in the tuberculous spondylitis.

Summary of Literature Review: Residual kyphosis and loss of correction remain the major problems following surgery for tuberculous spondylitis. Several authors have used metallic implants for the prevention of these complications. However, the safety of metallic implants use in tuberculous spine infections are still controversial.

Materials and Methods: Seventeen patients, who underwent surgery, and were stabilized by the use of a metallic implant for tuberculous spondylitis, and followed up for more than 1 year were included in this study. All patients were treated with combined anterior fusion (with or without mesh) and/or posterior pedicle screw instrumentation. The patients were followed up with serial plain radiographs, laboratory inflammatory parameters and neurological recovery.

Results: The overall correction of the kyphotic deformity was initially 8.5 degrees, and loss of correction occurred at 5.8 degrees. Although some loss of correction occurred, even after the use of a metallic implant, clinically significant kyphotic deformity was effectively prevented. There were no cases of persistent infection or failure to control infection when the metallic implantation was combined with an anterior radical debridement and chemotherapy. The erythrocyte sedimentation rate and C-reactive protein were eventually normalized in all patients. The preoperative neurological deficits were: incomplete paralysis in 9 cases and radiculopathy in 4. At the final follow-up, 11 cases had completely recovered, partial residual neurological deficits remaining in 2.

Conclusions: The use of instrumentation with metallic implants, in tuberculous spondylitis of the spine, provided immediate stability, and did not prohibit the control of infection when combined with radical debridement and anti-tuberculous chemotherapy.

Key Words: Tuberculous spondylitis, Pedicle screw, Mesh

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Table 1. Patients profile

* PS: pedicle screw

11, SPSS

가 13 12 Mann-Whitney

1-2, 1 ANOVA Kruskal-Wallis

11 6

4, 11

가, 2

3~5 6.0 5.5

10.0 6.0, 2.0, 6.5 (p>0.05) (Table 2).

(erythrocyte sedimentation rate) C- (C-reactive protein) 7.4 15.0 6.6

Cobb 4.4, 9.0, 6.4

(p>0.05).

가 50 11.8 2.5

Frankel 가 50

Table 2. Changes of kyphosis angle(°)

Groups		Kyphosis angle (degree)					
		Preop	Postop	Correction	Follow-up	Correction Loss	Final Correction
Instrumentation	Mesh	17.3	11.3	6.0	17.3	-6.0	0.0
	Mesh + PS*	28.5	23.0	5.5	25.0	-2.0	3.5
	Bone graft + PS	16.2	6.2	10.0	12.6	-6.5	3.5
Involved region	Thoracic	32.9	25.4	7.4	29.9	-4.4	3.0
	Thoracolumbar	25.3	10.3	15.0	19.3	-9.0	6.0
	Lumbar	-13.6	-20.2	6.6	-13.8	-6.4	0.2
Age (years)	< 50	26.4	14.5	11.8	20.0	-5.5	6.4
	50	2.3	-0.2	2.5	6.3	-6.5	-4.0
Number of involved vertebra	1 Segment	18.5	2.0	16.5	8.3	-6.3	10.3
	1 Segment	17.7	11.6	6.1	17.3	-5.7	0.4

* PS: pedicle screw

(p=0.04), Hodgson Stock⁵⁾

5.5 6.5

(p>0.05).

16.5 , 2 6.1

, 6.3 , 5.7 ^{3,19)}.

(p>0.05).

, 가 Lee Hahn¹⁰⁾

, 29.9% 6 12.8%

, Kim ⁹⁾ 140

가 1 . 55.1%

2 7.5%

Rajasekaran Shanmugasundaram¹⁵⁾

1 가 2

43.8 mm/h (25 mm/h)

8.5 , C 1 , 가

가 2.0 mg/L (0.5 가 ,

mg/L) 4.6 ,

가

가 9 , 4 , 2

, 4

가

Frankel B가 1 , C가 3 , D ^{1,2,6,17,18)} Moon ¹²⁾ Harrington

가 4 , E가 9 , 17 15

Frankel E , 2 Frankel D

, Frankel B D .

1 , 가 ,

1 , 1 ,

1 . 3 Harrington

1

, .

가

80

, 5.8

¹¹⁾ ,

가

가 ¹⁶⁾ .

, ^{2,12)} .

가
 ,
 가
 Yilmaz ¹⁹⁾
 , 2 가 22 64%
 3 16
 81% . Kim ⁷⁾
 Zielke
 68%
 83%
 가
 가
 7
 1

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- 4) , 가
 가 가
 10
 8)
 (biologic film)
 Oga ¹⁴⁾

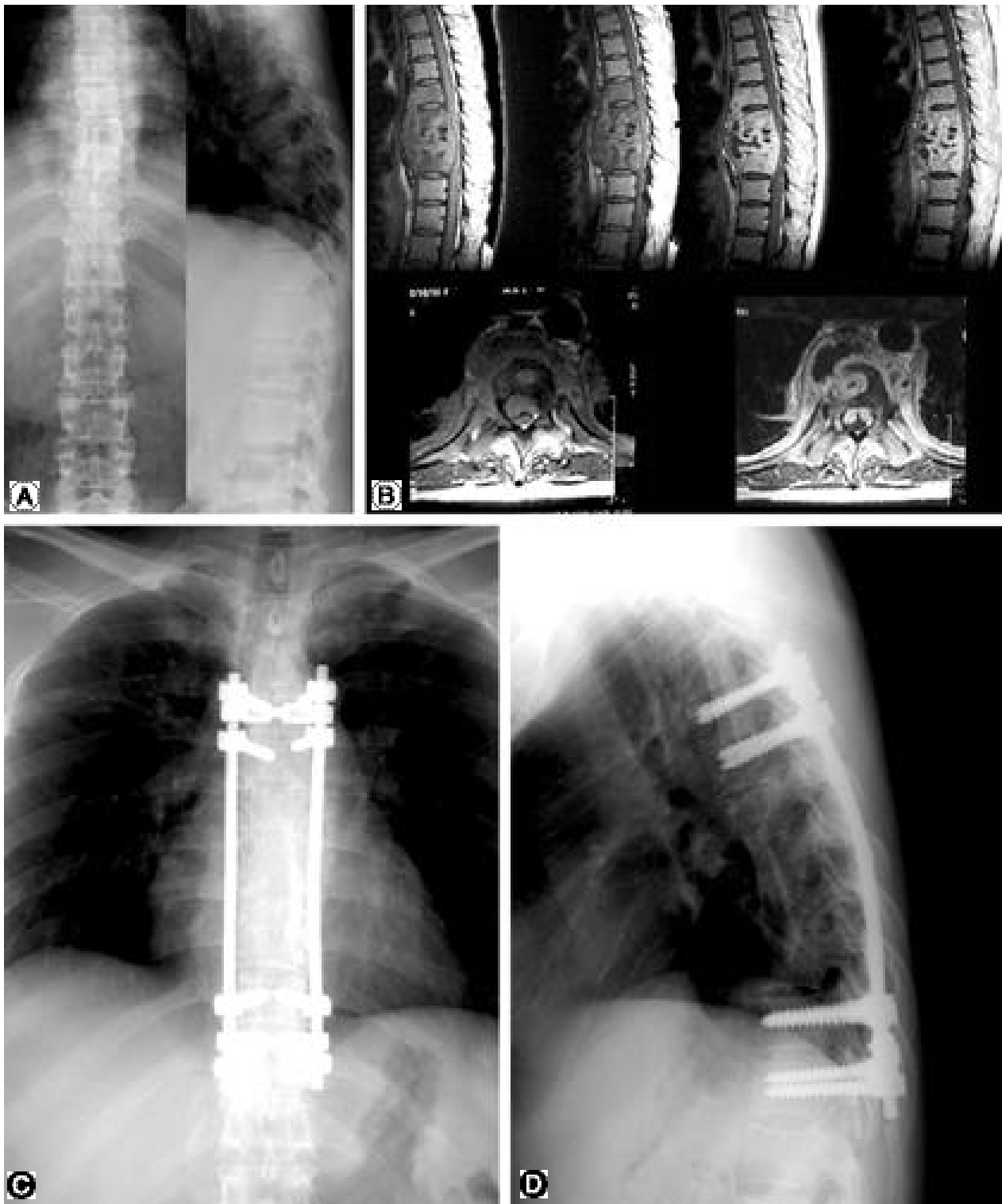


Fig. 1. A 31-year-old woman sustained spinal tuberculous spondylitis of thoracic spine and was treated with the combined anterior and posterior technique. (A) Preoperative anteroposterior thoracolumbar spine radiograph shows asymmetrical collapsing of T8 vertebral body and paraspinal soft tissue bulging. On the lateral view, destruction of T8 vertebral body and focal kyphotic angulation was noted. (B) Magnetic resonance images showed extent of the lesion more clearly. Affected segment ranged from T6 to T9. Compression of spinal cord by an epidural mass was also evident. (C)(D) Radiographs obtained at postoperative 1-year follow-up shows solid fusion with pedicle screw instrumentation. Anterior fusion with iliac bone graft was performed from T6 to T9 and pedicle screws were not inserted to the affected vertebra.



Fig. 2. A 28-year-old woman who had tuberculous spondylitis at thoracolumbar junction was treated with the combined anterior titanium mesh and posterior pedicle screw technique. (A)(B) Preoperative radiographs show destruction of T12 vertebral body and obliteration of T12-L1 intervertebral disc space. (C)(D) Radiographs obtained at postoperative 2-year shows stable construct and solid fusion.

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