

## Epidural Tuberculoma which invades Cauda Equina of Lumbar Spine

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– Abstract –

Epidural tuberculoma without bony involvement was first reported by Rao et al. in 1971; however, extraosseous spinal epidural tuberculoma and tuberculous infection of the cauda equina have never been reported. We experienced a case of epidural tuberculoma without bony involvement, which was diagnosed by decompression and biopsy, and treated with combined antituberculous chemotherapy. It resembled herniated nucleus pulposus at the L4-5 level, based on its clinical features, a physical examination, myelography and computed tomography. In the course of antituberculous medication, tuberculosis of the cauda equina occurred, which caused paraparesis. Herein, this case is reported in terms of its treatment and clinical course, with a review of the literature.

**Key words:** Epidural space, Cauda Equina, Tuberculoma

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가<sup>3)</sup> 10~25%  
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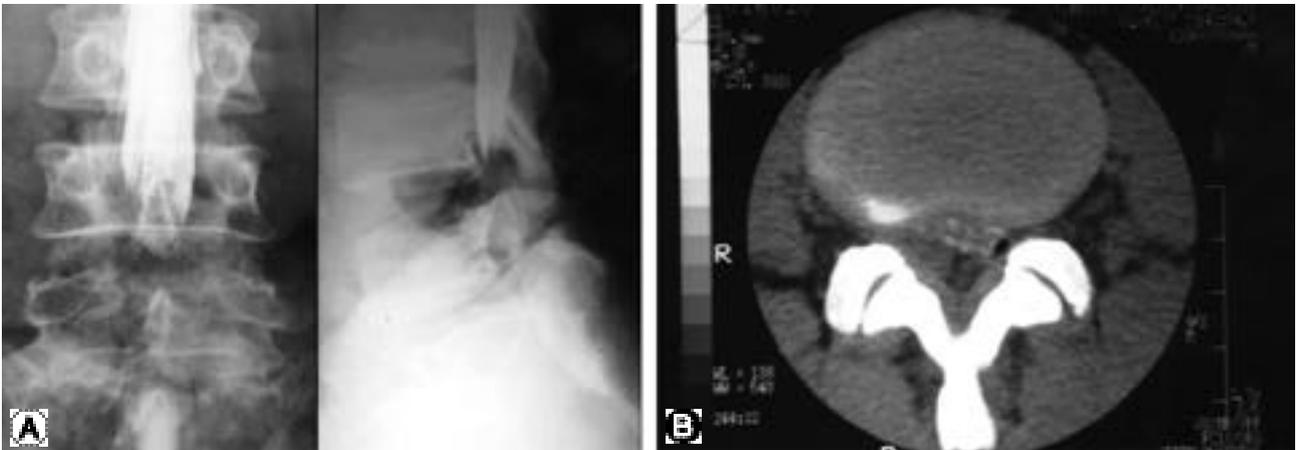
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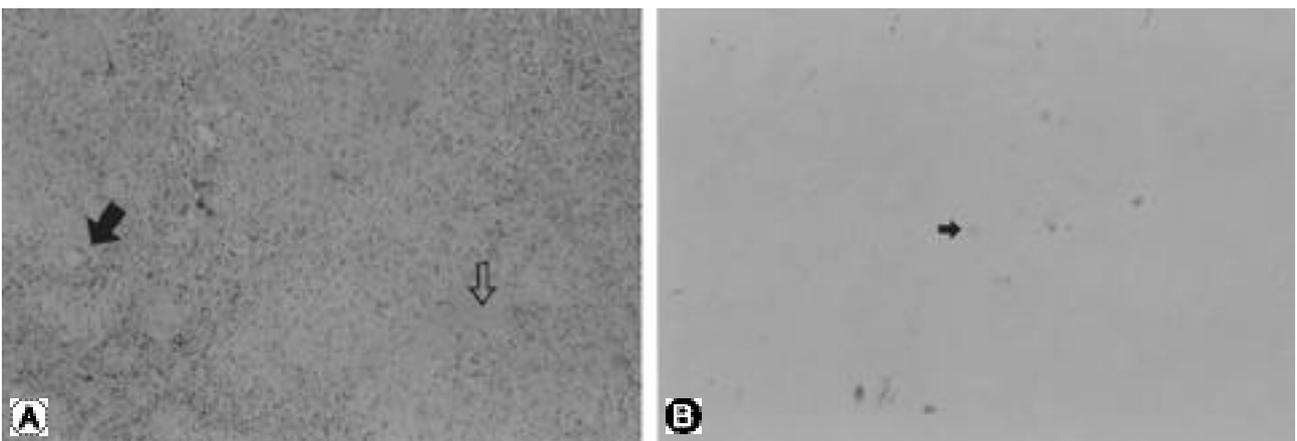
(Fig. 2). INH 400 mg, RFP 600 mg, EMB 800 mg,  
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**Fig. 1.** (A) Preoperative myelography. Anteroposterior and lateral myelogram showing a complete block of the contrast media at the level of the L4-5 disc due to a space occupying lesion in the epidural space. (B) CT myelography showing an epidural mass, but no destruction of vertebral body, pedicles and transverse processes.



**Fig. 2.** (A) Photomicrograph of biopsy specimen showing typical tuberculous granulation tissue. Typical Langhan-type giant cells (arrow), caseation necrosis (open arrow) are seen (Hematoxylin & Eosin staining,  $\times 100$ ). (B) Acid-fast bacilli (small arrow) in granulomatous tissue, taken from same biopsy specimen are also noted (AFB staining  $\times 400$ ).

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**Fig. 3.** T1-weighted MR image which shows indistinguishable cauda equina due to edematous change and epidural collection of fluid, considered as cold abscess.



**Fig. 4.** T2-weighted MR image which shows a nodular, hypointense intradural lesions at L5 body level which surmised as tuberculomas.

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Fig. 5. T2-weighted MR image which shows remarkably decreased intradural lesions.

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