

## Isolated Gluteal Tuberculosis

Gluteal tuberculous abscess is a well documented presentation of a caries spine and other local bony foci of tuberculosis. A primary gluteal tuberculous abscess is rarer still and has been previously reported in literature in adults. We present a case of isolated gluteal tuberculous abscess in a child.

A 4-year-old female child presented with history of recurrent abscess in the left gluteal region. She gives history of having received an antibiotic injection in the left gluteal region six months back. She underwent incision and drainage of a left gluteal abscess along with antibiotic therapy at monthly intervals for 2 months prior to being seen by us. BCG vaccination was given in the neonatal period on the left deltoid region. There was no known contact with TB patients. The lungs, spine, pelvis and proximal femur were clinically and radiologically normal. There were no neurological deficits. The clinical presentation of the abscess cavity was not different from a pyogenic abscess except for its chronicity. The abscess was drained and the wall sent for histopathological examination. It revealed a chronic inflammatory lesion with granulation tissue and focal granuloma formation suggestive of tuberculosis and demonstration of acid fast tubercle bacilli on Ziehl Neelsen staining. The patient had a dramatic response to anti-tuberculous therapy and remains disease free at one year follow up.

Caries spine causing a gluteal abscess has been reported in adults and children(1). Adjacent bony lesions can also at times cause

gluteal abscess(2). When BCG vaccination is given in the gluteal region, subcutaneous abscess is known to occur(3). Intramuscular injections can very rarely predispose the underlying Koch's bacilli to get fixed at the site leading onto a subsequent abscess. The distinction between a tuberculous abscess and injection abscesses caused by *Mycobacterium fortuitum* and *M.chelonae* is by a therapeutic trial of ATT to which the latter do not respond(4). An isolated tuberculous abscess is a rare phenomenon reported previously only in adults(5).

**V.S. Jones,  
C. Phillip,**

*Department of Pediatric Surgery,  
Matha Hospital,  
Thellakom PO,  
Kottayam, Kerala 686 016, India.  
E-mail: drvsjones@yahoo.co.in*

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