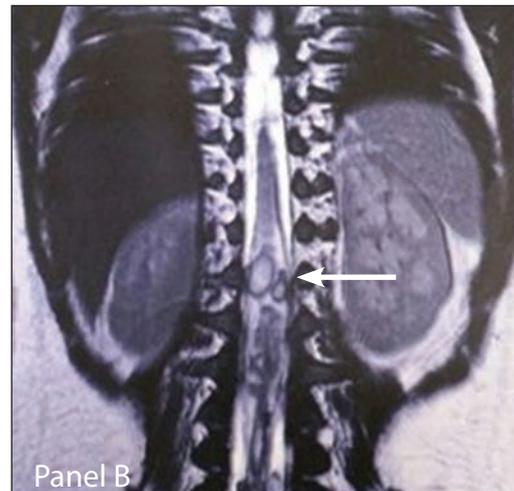


INTRADURAL ABSCESSES IN A CHILD WITH LUMBAR DERMAL SINUSPrastiya Indra GUNAWAN¹, Dwiyaniti PUSPITASARI¹, Wihasto SURYANINGTYAS²¹Department of Child Health, Airlangga University, College of Medicine, Dr Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya, Indonesia, ²Pediatric Neurosurgeon, Department of Neurosurgery, Airlangga University, College of Medicine, Dr Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya, Indonesia

A 2-year-old boy was presented with acute lower extremity weakness, prolonged fever, and an infected lumbar dermal sinus tract (Panel A). Neurological examination revealed paraparesis and sensory deficit appropriate from L5 to S1 dermatome. Laboratory examination revealed a raised leukocyte (white blood cells instead) count and high CRP level. The culture of the infected dermal sinus tract identified *Acinetobacter baumannii*. Lumbosacral MRI showed spina bifida and spinal canal abnormalities at L5-S1 level, dermal sinus tract at L5-S1 level and intradural abscess

formation from the cauda equina to L5-S1 level, accompanied by vascular engorgement at the proximal part of the abscess (Panel B). Lumbar decompressive surgery was performed and the abscess was evacuated. Intravenous ceftriaxone and metronidazole were administered for 8 weeks according to the culture report. There was no microorganism identified following the treatment. The fever subsided and the boy was discharged with neurological sequelae. Spinal intradural abscess is extremely rare and few cases have been reported (1). It is more commonly seen in adults. It has been attributed to the absence of sinuses in the spine, the width of

the epidural space acting as a filter, as well as the centripetal pattern of blood flow. In children, intradural infection is more commonly caused by pre-existing congenital anomalies in the spinal column; however, hematogenous spread may occur from various sources (2). Spinal cord neoplasm is considered as a differential diagnosis. Surgery and antibiotics are the mainstay of treatment.

Key words: Intradural abscess ■ Children ■ Lumbar dermal sinus.

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