INTRODUCTION:
Pyogenic spondylitis mainly affects the thoracolumbar spine, rarely the cervical region. It can cause severe complications, which early diagnosis and treatment of utmost importance. Difficulty lies in diagnosing this condition early due to initial symptoms being non-specific and varied.

CASE STUDY:
We report a 61yrs old lady with underlying DM, IHD, HPT and CKD which had sudden onset of quadriparesis over two weeks, with associated numbness. She denied neck pain, fever, or other constitutional symptoms. Screening other systems was unremarkable. She was not septic, and had a medium build. Power grading of right limbs was Grade 0, and Grade 2 for the left limbs. Sensation was reduced from T4 level, with generalized hyporeflexia. Further examination revealed an intact perianal sensation, lax anal tone with an intact bulbocalversous reflex.

Her TWBC was 15000/L and ESR >120mmHg. Urinalysis and TB work up were negative, blood cultures grew Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). MRI revealed a discitis of the C5/C6 disc with intraspinal bulge widening into the spinal cord with cord edema, and left C5 exiting nerve root impingement.

She was treated with a course of intravenous antibiotics, and enrolled in a rehabilitation program.

DISCUSSION:
Pyogenic spondylitis is a life threatening condition. Community-acquired infection is by Gram-positive cocci, while methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Gram-negative bacilli are implicated with hospital-acquired cases. The routes of infection are hematogenous metastasis, via arterial route which giving rise to bacteraemia. In cervical spine, pre-vertebral pharyngeal venous plexus act as a route for the spread of bacteria in infections around the neck regions. The level of involvement varies. Infections have been recorded at all levels. In the cervical vertebrae, tends to develop in the lower-levels.

CONCLUSION:
Pyogenic spondylitis involving the cervical spine is uncommon. Early diagnosis and institution of treatment is crucial with high index of suspicion is beneficial.

REFERENCES: