

Contrast Enhanced Ct Spine As A Diagnostic Tool For Spinal Tuberculosis In A Non-MRI District Hospital

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INTRODUCTION:

Spinal tuberculosis is the commonest form of skeletal tuberculosis. However diagnosing spinal tuberculosis in a district hospital setting without MRI is a major setback due to long waiting time. This study is to review the use of CT scan of spine in diagnosing spinal tuberculosis.

METHODS:

This is a retrospective study. Patients with suggestive clinical and laboratory of spinal tuberculosis in Hospital Keningau were subjected to contrast enhanced CT (CECT) spine within 1st July 2017 until 31st July 2018.

RESULTS:

Total patients were 16 patients with age ranging from 11 until 90 years old. There were 6 female and 10 male patients. Six patients were suggestive of spinal tuberculosis from CECT spine and started on anti tuberculosis treatment. No biopsy was taken as all patients refused biopsy. All patients improved clinically after started treatment.

3 months. By CECT the waiting time was cut to in a week time.

In CECT spine, findings of interfragmentary body destruction, paravertebral collection, subligamentous collections and epidural extension are suggestive of spinal tuberculosis. With contrast it will enhance the granulomatous tissue and the walls of abscesses located in both bone and soft tissues. CECT spine also can be used as a guide for transpedicular biopsy. However CECT is less superior to MRI in intramedullary involvement.

CONCLUSION:

CECT spine is a valuable tool in diagnosing spinal tuberculosis in a non MRI district hospital due to shorter waiting time and provides excellent multiplanar reconstruction imaging for the assessment of bone and soft tissue infection.

REFERENCES:

1. Antonio Rivas-Garcia. Imaging findings of Pott's disease. Eur. Spine J. 2013.

Table 1. CECT findings vs ESR values

	Positive CECT Findings	Negative CECT Findings
High ESR	5	6
Low / Normal ESR Level	1	4

DISCUSSIONS:

In a district hospital set up like us the waiting time for early MRI appointment for investigating spinal tuberculosis may take 2-