

A Case of Intraspinal Osteoblastoma with Atypical Kyphoscoliosis

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INTRODUCTION:

Osteoblastomas are uncommon, benign aggressive osteogenic neoplasms requiring early diagnosis and treatment. Reports have described osteoblastoma with an initial presentation of painful scoliosis. Scoliosis may be secondary to asymmetric muscle spasm in spinal osteoblastoma¹. This case report presents a case of intraspinal extradural osteoblastoma associated with thoracolumbar scoliosis.

REPORT:

A 15 year-old boy presented with progressive lower back pain of a year duration accompanied with numbness of the left leg. Initial radiographic results showed atypical kyphoscoliosis with a left sided thoracic curve. MRI spine demonstrated a lobulated enhancing posterior extradural lesion at the L2/L3 level with mass effect on the thecal sac and scalloping of the bilateral L2 laminae.

The patient underwent posterior spinal decompression, tumour excision, scoliosis correction and spinal fusion with autograft and instrumentation from T10 to L4. Histopathological examination of the specimen found the mass to be osteoblastoma. Post operatively the patient made a full recovery with complete resolution of pain and numbness with no spinal imbalance during follow up.

CONCLUSION:

This case emphasizes the importance of having a high index of suspicion of secondary causes in patients with atypical scoliosis associated with pain. Early recognition and surgical excision of spinal osteoblastomas may prevent neurological deficit and progression of scoliosis.

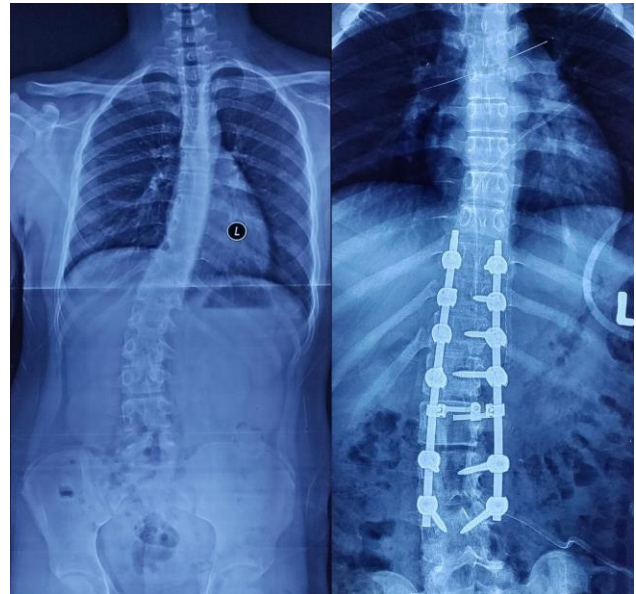


Figure 1: X ray whole spine

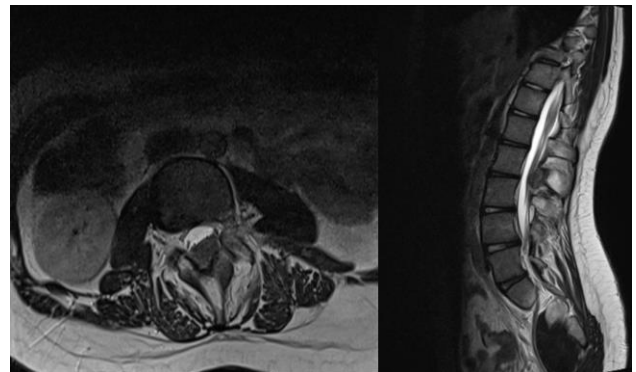


Figure 2: T2 weighted MRI image of lumbosacral spine

REFERENCES:

1. Saifuddin A et al. Osteoid osteoma and osteoblastoma of the spine: factors associated with the presence of scoliosis. Spine. 1998;23(1):47-53.