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IMAGES IN PAEDIATRICS.....

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Tuberculous pyomyositis of the left quadratus lumborum

A case of isolated tuberculous pyomyositis, a rare presentation of tuberculosis, is reported.

A 15 year old Bangladeshi boy presented with a 15 month history of a lump on the left side of his back. There was no history of fever, night sweats, or weight loss; he had been immunised with BCG vaccine in the UK at 13 years of age.

On examination there was a left thoracic paravertebral fluctuant swelling. Spinal movements and neurological examination of upper and lower limbs were normal.

The Heaf test was strongly positive (grade IV) and an MRI scan showed an abscess within the left quadratus lumborum extending into adjacent subcutaneous tissue with no intraspinal or vertebral involvement (see fig 1).

Ultrasound guided needle aspiration obtained blood stained pus, from which fully sensitive mycobacterium tuberculosis was cultured.

Anti-tuberculosis treatment (isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol) was commenced for one year. The lump subsequently decreased in size.

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Figure 1 (A) Parasagittal T2 weighted MRI scan of thoracic spine showing intramuscular collection. (B–D) T2 weighted axial images showing left posterior paravertebral muscle collections.