

Case Report: Catheter-Related Epidural Abscess

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Abstract

Introduction: Catheter-related spinal epidural abscesses are rare but increasing in incidence. **Clinical Picture:** An elderly gentleman received 4 days of continuous epidural analgesia following multiple traumatic rib fractures. Five days subsequently, he developed an extensive epidural abscess accompanied by backache, lower limb weakness, fever, leukocytosis and Staphylococcal bacteraemia. **Treatment:** He received appropriate intravenous antibiotics and underwent an emergent decompressive laminectomy. **Outcome:** A good outcome was achieved because of prompt diagnosis, appropriate intravenous antibiotics and timely surgical intervention. **Conclusions:** It is important to be vigilant and continue to maintain good clinical practice and a high index of suspicion for this procedural-related complication.

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Key words: Antibiotics, Epidural analgesia, Infection, Prevention

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