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Manuscript Draft

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Title: Re: Ivo R, Sobottke R, Seifert H, et al. Tuberculous spondylitis and paravertebral abscess formation after kyphoplasty: a case report. Spine 2010;35:E559-63.

Article Type: Letter to the Editor

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1 To the Editor:
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4 Re: Ivo R, Sobottke R, Seifert H, et al. Tuberculous spondylitis and paravertebral
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7 abscess formation after kyphoplasty: a case report. *Spine* 2010;35:E559-63.
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13 Dr. Ivo et al¹ reported a patient with spinal tuberculosis (TB) and paravertebral
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16 abscess formation after kyphoplasty. The authors mentioned that magnetic resonance
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19 imaging (MRI) scan revealed a subacute compression fracture of L1 without any
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22 radiologic sign of infection. However, after reviewing with our radiologist, some
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24
25 clues of infection were found.
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29 Ivo et al mentioned that according to rapid worsening of infection after kyphoplasty,
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31
32 it may be postulated that kyphoplasty acted as a trigger of spinal tuberculosis
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34
35 infection. According to the diagnostic criteria of Vaccaro et al,² tuberculous infections
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37
38 often show soft-tissue masses dissecting beneath the anterior longitudinal ligament. In
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40
41 figure 2, blurring and disruption of anterior cortical line with hyper-intensity soft
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43
44 tissue mass is noted at the pre-vertebral area of L1 and extended to T12. In addition,
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46
47 loss of intra-nuclear cleft and increased signal intensity within the disc of T12-L1
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49
50 suggests a pathological process, such as inflammation or infection. From above
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52
53 findings, infection should be highly suspected. So this case should be a pre-existed
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58 TB spondylitis exacerbated by kyphoplasty.
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60

References:

1. Ivo R, Sobottke R, Seifert H, et al. Tuberculous spondylitis and paravertebral abscess formation after kyphoplasty: a case report. *Spine* 2010;35:E559-63.
2. Vaccaro AR, Shah SH, Schweitzer ME, et al. MRI description of vertebral osteomyelitis, neoplasm, and compression fracture. *Orthopedics* 1999;22:67-73.

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