



AB216. 36. Emphysematous osteomyelitis of the spine

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Background: Emphysematous osteomyelitis is an extremely rare entity and furthermore its presence in vertebral column is not only scarcely reported in literature but is associated with a high mortality rate. This pathology is characterised by the presence of interosseous gas produced by gas-forming organisms.

Methods: Here we describe the case of a 62-year-old gentleman with Parkinson's disease who presented to the emergency hospital acutely unwell, complaining of abdominal and lower back pain. Studies at this point

revealed a systemic inflammatory response and a urinary tract infection and an urgent CT abdomen revealed interosseous gas within and surrounding the L3 vertebra and adjacent psoas muscle yielding a diagnosis of emphysematous osteomyelitis.

Results: Within this case report and review of literature we highlight the rarity of this pathology, the clinical and impressive radiological findings specific to this case and the current evidence available, or lack thereof, on management of this entity. We describe this patients clinical journey and progression of the disease process resulting in mortality.

Conclusions: Emphysematous osteomyelitis is a rare and life-threatening pathology which yields a complex.

Keywords: Emphysematous osteomyelitis; osteomyelitis; vertebral column; spine

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