**Spinal tuberculosis: diagnosis, treatment and outcomes**

Hamida Kwas1, Mariem Bouzid2, Sabrine Majdoub Fehri1, Dhia Elleuch1, Mohamed Hedi Ben Ayed2

1. Pulmonology department. University of Sfax, Faculty of Medicine of Sfax. Gabès University Hospital, Tunisia.

2. Orthopedics department. University of Sfax, Faculty of Medicine of Sfax. Gabès University Hospital, Tunisia.

**Introduction :** Spinal tuberculosis is the most common and serious manifestation of osteoarticular tuberculosis.

**Aim :** To identify the clinical, radiological and therapeutic aspects as well as the outcome of spinal tuberculosis.

**Methods:** Retrospective study including 18 patients hospitalized for spinal tuberculosis at the GABES university hospital.

**Results:** The average age was 46 years. Spinal pain was the revealing functional sign in 15 patients. Radiological exploration revealed spinal lesions in all patients, associated with epidural involvement (15 cases) and soft tissue abscess (7 cases). The diagnosis of tuberculosis was confirmed by culture or PCR on abscess puncture fluid or biopsy fragments in 5 patients and by histological evidence in 6 patients. All patients received anti-tuberculosis treatment with a mean duration of 13.88 ± 3.789 months (8-22 months). Four patients underwent decompressive laminectomy.

**Conclusion**: Spinal tuberculosis causes serious neurological complications, hence the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.