



IMAGES OF SPINE CARE

Tuberculous spondylitis presenting with back pain

A 21-year-old man presented with back pain. Computed tomography (CT) scan showed irregularity and erosion of the vertebra end plates between the T8 and L1 levels. Paraspinal collections beneath the anterior longitudinal ligament were also demonstrated (Fig. 1). Multiple micronodular opacities forming tree-in-bud configurations were seen in the superior segments of the inferior lobes of bilateral lungs. Contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging revealed hypointensity on T1-weighted, hyperintensity on T2-weighted images and enhancement on post-contrast images in adjacent end plates between these levels (Fig. 2). Well-circumscribed paraspinal subligamentous collections with enhancing margins were seen. There was relative preservation of the disc space and the posterior elements, consistent with tuberculous spondylitis (Pott

disease). Microbiological examinations after fine needle aspiration biopsy of the paraspinal collection confirmed the diagnosis.

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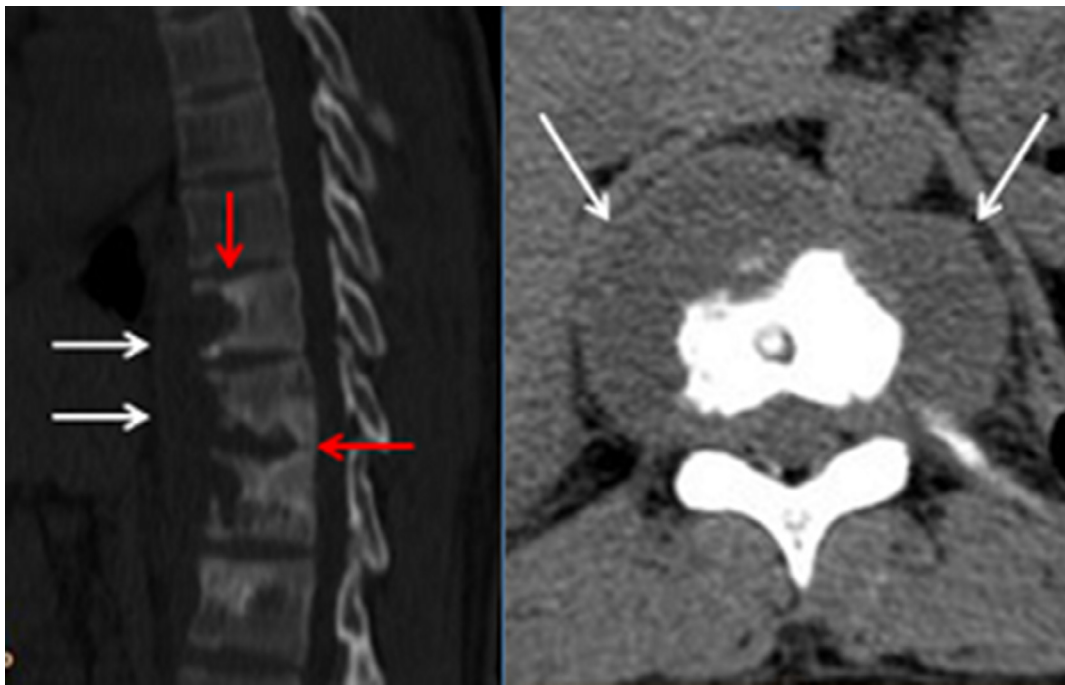


Fig. 1. Sagittal (Left) and axial (Right) computed tomography (CT) images show irregularity and erosion of the vertebra end plates (red arrows) and paraspinal collection (white arrows).



Fig. 2. Sagittal T2-weighted (Left) and post-contrast T1-weighted (Right) magnetic resonance images show paraspinal collections with enhancing margins (arrows) and relative preservation of the disc spaces.