

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 05190615

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-16 02:16

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-16 08:34

**Review time:** 6 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Epidural abscess is relatively rare, and the most common cause is puncture or injury. This patient had low back pain without other obvious symptoms, MRI showed epidural abscess, was suspected tuberculosis due to no improvement of initial treatment. The final diagnosis confirmed the coinfection of TB. Because the presentation of tuberculosis is becoming less typical, and spinal tuberculosis is more common than simple epidural abscesses, so when the cause of a spinal abscess is unknown, the abscess but not blood testing is more important, for example Tubercle Bacillus acid-fast staining. When systemic infection symptoms are not obvious, tuberculosis should be highly suspected, especially in patients with elevated ESR and CRP.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 03227821

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-16 10:52

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-16 11:34

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This case report may provide reference for the diagnosis and treatment of patients in the future, and has certain clinical value.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 05430304

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-19 03:16

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-23 11:49

**Review time:** 4 Days and 8 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

1. The title describes an epidural abscess, but this case should be diagnosed as lumbar tuberculosis. 2. The paper only provided the MRI before the first operation. Methicillin-resistant *S. epidermidis* infection can not explain the destruction of lumbar vertebrae and cold abscess. It is unreasonable to exclude tuberculosis based on pathological results. 3. There is no images after the second operation. 4. Although the article mentions a ten-year follow-up, there is no follow-up outcomes.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 05353971

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Research Fellow, Research Scientist, Teacher

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-16 02:34

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-25 13:45

**Review time:** 9 Days and 11 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The paper presents an interesting and rare case of SEA, which coinfects with bacteria and tuberculosis. And it is praiseworthy that the case had been followed up for ten years. This is a well-written paper. For the benefit of the reader, however, a number of points need clarifying and certain statements require further justification. My detailed comments are as follows: 1. Accurate diagnosis of tuberculosis has been rendered increasingly difficult. To our knowledge, T-spot is a test with high sensitivity for tuberculosis diagnosis, had it been conducted in the case? And if not, what was your consideration? 2. For bone infections, especially bacterial infections, it is controversial whether to perform internal fixation implantation after debridement. It would be catastrophic if the infection is not controlled. And posterior instrumentation was performed after debridement in the case, what was your consideration? 3. The normal reference value should be marked on the part of laboratory examination. 4. Methicillin-resistant *S. epidermidis* was identified from intraoperatively acquired abscess culture at the first surgery. What was the type of bacteria at the second surgery? In addition to taking antitubercular medication after the second surgery, is there any oral anti bacteria drugs? 5. Did the patient undergo MRI imaging during the 10-year follow-up? If there were laboratory and Imaging examinations after the patient being cured, it would be more perfect. 6. The author should give a detailed plan of antituberculosis treatment, including dose and drug adjustment plan.



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 05355553

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Chief Physician

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-17 23:04

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-27 16:39

**Review time:** 9 Days and 17 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Good work, How to identify coinfection or postoperative infection?

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 03207387

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-16 02:17

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-29 07:20

**Review time:** 13 Days and 5 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors reported a 75-year-old female complaining low back pain. MRI revealed an Spinal epidural abscess (SEA) at the lumbosacral segment. *Staphylococcus hominis* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus epidermidis* were identified from preoperative blood culture and intraoperative abscess culture, respectively. The patient underwent treatment with vancomycin medication for 9 weeks after surgical drainage of the SEA. However, the low back pain recurred 2 weeks after vancomycin treatment. Then, MRI revealed an aggravated SEA in the same area in addition to erosive destruction of vertebral bodies. Revision surgery was performed for SEA removal and spinal instrumentation. The microbiological study and pathological examination confirmed *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* as the pathogen concurrent with the bacterial SEA. The patient improved completely after 12 months of antitubercular medication. The authors thought coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis occurred in the case. However, the *Staphylococcus hominis* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus epidermidis* were identified from preoperative blood culture and intraoperative abscess culture, respectively. Different bacteria were seen in blood culture and intraoperative abscess culture, so the possibility of contamination during culture could not be excluded. And T-spot, PPD and X-pert tests are necessary to confirm the diagnosis of TB. Besides, anti-acid staining of the abscess are needed.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 05729651

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Surgeon

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-17 15:13

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-29 17:12

**Review time:** 12 Days and 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The idea of the paper is innovative, and they completed up to 10 years of follow-up, that is the excellent job. But There are some questions for the author to answer: 1) I think the author must write down how many cases have been reported in the literature and conduct a small review.2) Changes in all aspects of the patient during the 10-year follow-up should be described in detail, including the treatment plan, treatment outcomes, and changes in the patient's condition, etc.3) Please provide your basis for the medication regimen after surgery.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 05345734

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Chief Physician, Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-01-18 16:24

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-01-31 13:43

**Review time:** 12 Days and 21 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

authors have successfully addressed all comments.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 05355553

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Chief Physician

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** Man Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-02-24 04:14

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-02-24 04:23

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Excellent [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Very good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: Good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Fair [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Priority publishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Accept (High priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Accept (General priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Minor revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Major revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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good work

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 62701

**Title:** Spinal epidural abscess due to coinfection of bacteria and tuberculosis: A case report

**Reviewer's code:** 05353971

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Research Fellow, Research Scientist, Teacher

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-01-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** Man Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-02-24 02:14

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-02-24 13:29

**Review time:** 11 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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The authors have revised the manuscript referring to the comments.