

**PRIMARY MULTIDRUG RESISTANCE TUBERCULOSIS OF LYMPH NODES IN  
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**ABSTRACT**

Tuberculous lymphadenitis stands out as one of the most common forms of extrapulmonary tuberculosis (TB), constituting 35% of extrapulmonary TB cases. This condition is recognized as the localized expression of a systemic disease, emphasizing its representation in the broader context of tuberculosis. Mycobacterium tuberculosis typically enters the body through the respiratory tract and then disseminates via the bloodstream and lymphatic system. The initial lymphoid tissues encountered during the lymphatic spread from the lung parenchyma are the hilar and mediastinal lymph nodes. It may also spread to Cervical lymph nodes often presenting as painless, firm, and progressively enlarging lymph nodes in the neck. This case report delves into the rare occurrence of primary multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) manifesting in the lymph nodes of pediatric patients. Highlighting a unique clinical presentation, diagnostic challenges, and treatment strategies, the study aims to contribute valuable insights into managing this formidable form of TB in the paediatric population. Through a comprehensive analysis of the case, we underscore the importance of early detection and tailored therapeutic interventions to improve outcomes in primary MDR-TB cases affecting lymph nodes in children.

**KEYWORDS:** Cervical lymph nodes, MDR-TB, Paediatric.**INTRODUCTION**

Cervical lymphadenitis is the most common head and neck manifestation of mycobacterial infections. The incidence of mycobacterial cervical lymphadenitis has increased. It may be the manifestation of a systemic tuberculous disease or a unique clinical entity localized to neck.<sup>[1]</sup>

It remains both diagnostic and therapeutic challenge because it mimics other pathologic processes and yields inconsistent physical and laboratory findings. Diagnosis is difficult often requiring biopsy. A thorough history and physical examination, staining for acid-fast bacilli, fine-needle aspiration and PCR are helpful in obtaining an early diagnosis.<sup>[2]</sup>

Histological examination (caseating epithelioid cell granulomas and giant cell formation) and microbiological examination (Ziehl-Neelsen staining and culture of native material) should be performed. Newer methods, such as amplification and detection of mycobacterial DNA, are rapid and sensitive tests helpful for diagnosis.<sup>[3]</sup>

Cartridge based nucleic acid amplification test (CB-NAAT, GeneXpert.) is an automated cartridge-based molecular technique which not only detects Mycobacterium Tuberculosis but also rifampicin resistance within two hours and has been endorsed by WHO as an initial diagnostic test in children suspected of having tuberculosis both in pulmonary and specific forms of extra pulmonary tuberculosis.<sup>[4]</sup>

**CASE REPORT**

A 6 month old male presented with low grade fever since 3 weeks with post-auricular swelling at right side since 3 months gradually increasing in size, the swelling was firm, mobile, and tender measuring 3X4 cm, overlying skin is red and warm to touch, another swelling present below right ear. Initially pus like discharge was also seen below the right ear. FNAC smears from the right post-auricular swelling are cellular and show sheets of viable and degenerated polymorphs, lymphocytes and macrophages along with epithelioid cell granulomas in a necrotic background. ZN stain for AFB is negative. Diagnosis of Necrotizing granulomatous inflammation was made on FNAC. Microscopic examination of aspirated pus from the swelling shows the presence of epithelioid cell granuloma with presence of

inflammatory cells comprising of lymphocytes, neutrophils, few plasma cells along with few degenerated cells. Background shows presence of necrosis along with giant cells, no atypical cells in the smear examined. Appearances are suggestive of necrotizing granulomatous pathology likely to be tuberculosis. CBNAAT (GeneXpert) was done on FNAC sample on which Mycobacterium Tuberculosis with rifampicin resistance was detected. Patient's mother currently on treatment for MDR pulmonary tuberculosis. Patient was started on all oral longer MDR TB Regimen consisting of levofloxacin, linezolid, clofazimine, cycloserine with pyridoxine supplementation.

### DISCUSSION

Tubercular lymphadenitis (TBLN) remains the most frequent manifestation for extrapulmonary TB despite advancements in diagnostics and management over the years.<sup>[5]</sup>

Tubercular adenitis occurs in all age groups with equal frequency. It can occur in vaccinated children also. It may be a sole manifestation of tubercular infection. The cervical nodes are predominantly involved. There is no typical location of nodes in individual groups but multiplicity and matting of nodes are characteristic features of tubercular adenitis in children.<sup>[6]</sup>

Tuberculous lymphadenitis remains one of important targets for the differential diagnosis of lymphadenopathy. It is essential that a peripheral lymph node biopsy be performed and examined either histologically and/or microbiologically.<sup>[7]</sup>

There are two specific pathologic criteria for identifying tuberculosis lymphadenitis, caseation and granuloma formation. Caseation has been found to be more specific and sensitive.<sup>[8]</sup>

The role of Cartridge based Nucleic Acid Amplification test (CBNAAT) in the diagnosis of lymphnode TB which helps in reducing the mortality and morbidity by early identification and initiating treatment at the earliest. Also helps in identify the drug resistance among tubercular lymphnodes cases.<sup>[9]</sup>

Grouping of anti-TB drugs and steps for designing longer MDR-TB regimen

Group A- Include all three medicines  
Levofloxacin Lfx or Moxifloxacin Mfx  
Bedaquiline Bdq

Linezolid Lzd  
Group B- Add one or both medicines  
Clofazimine Cfz

Cycloserine Cs  
Terizidone Trd

Group C- Add to complete the regimen and when medicines from Group A and B cannot be used

Ethambutol E  
Delamanid Dlm

Pyrazinamide Z  
Imipenem-cilastatin or Ipm-Cln  
Meropenem Mpm  
Amikacin Am (OR Streptomycin S)  
Ethionamide Eto or  
Prothionamide Pto  
p-aminosalicylic acid PAS.<sup>[10]</sup>

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