

## NEUROLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF POTT'S DISEASE

Nimal Senanayake  
(Dept. of Medicine, University of Peradeniya)

and

S. Vyravanathan  
(Chest Clinic, Kandy)

From 1973 to 1981, 4,643 cases of tuberculosis were notified from the Chest Clinic, Kandy. Seventy four of these were cases of Pott's disease of the spine. Thirteen of these 74 cases presented with neurological deficits. This paper is based on an analysis of the clinical features, treatment and follow-up of these 13 patients.

The age range of the patients was 3 - 57 yrs; 8 of these were males. Five patients had evidence of intra-thoracic tuberculosis and one had tuberculous peritonitis and cervical lymphadenitis. The other 7 patients had no evidence of associated tuberculous lesions.

The vertebrae affected were: thoracic in 9, lumbar in 2 and cervical in 1. T6 was the commonest thoracic vertebra involved (6 out of 9). L3 and L4 were the lumbar vertebrae affected, and C6 was the cervical vertebrae affected. All 13 patients showed radiological evidence of destruction of vertebrae and diminution of inter-vertebral spaces.

The presenting features were: spastic paraplegia in the 9 patients with disease of the thoracic vertebrae, flaccid paraplegia in the 3 patients with disease of the lumbar vertebrae and flaccid weakness of upper limbs with spastic weakness of the lower limbs in the patient with disease of the cervical vertebrae. The treatment regimen followed was: streptomycin, isoniazid and para-amino salicylic acid for 2-3 months followed by biweekly streptomycin and isoniazid upto 1½ years.

Ten patients recovered completely with 1 - 6 months of an i-tuberculosis chemotherapy, 2 patients were left with residual weakness at the end of one year and one patient died of urinary tract infection one month after the commencement of anti-tuberculosis treatment.