

Pott's illness

Pott's disease (*malum Pottii*) is a chronic epidural tuberculous infection with inflammation of the vertebrae (**spondylitis of the vertebral bodies'**), usually in the lower thoracic spine. It belongs to the most common form of bone tuberculosis (others include, for example, tuberculous arthritis, which is usually monoarticular).

Characteristics:

- It spreads from the disc to the front of the vertebral bodies (***spondylodiscitis tuberculosa***).
- When 2 adjacent vertebrae collapse, a block or stiffness is formed and spinal cord compression can occur.
- Paralysis of the lower limbs appears in up to half of the cases.
- Magnetic resonance imaging sometimes demonstrates a cold abscess deposited paravertebrally.
- The disease is thus summarized by 3 basic symptoms: **plegia, kyphosis** and **abscess**.



Spinal flexion in malum Pottii in a boy

Deformity of the spine

Links

Related articles

- Tuberculosis (pathology)
- Tuberculosis (pediatrics)
- Tuberculous meningitidis

Links

- SEIDL, Zdeněk – OBENBERGER, Jiří. *Neurology for studying and practice*. 1. edition. Prague : Grada Publishing, 2004. 363 pp. ISBN 80-247-0623-7.
- HERCHLINE, T – AMOROSA, J.K. <https://emedicine.medscape.com/>[online]. ©2009. [cit. 27.6.2009]. <<https://emedicine.medscape.com//article/230802-overview>>.