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**Extensive spinal epidural abscess in an adolescent girl treated with laminoplasty**Christos Chamilos, Benedetta Pettorini, Ajay Sinha*Department of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Royal Liverpool "Alder Hey" Children's Hospital, United Kingdom*

**Introduction:** Spinal epidural abscess (SEA) is a rare infection known in adults with well-defined risk factors. It's very rare though in the adolescent group of age. We describe a case of 11 year old girl with an extensive epidural abscess treated surgically.

**Methods:** An 11-year-old girl was referred from a local hospital with history of 5 days of fever and back pain. The symptoms worsened more the last 2 days. An MRI was performed that showed an extensive SEA from T10 to L4 that was compressing the spinal cord anteriorly and entering the spinal foramens. At examination the girl had extreme back pain and loss of motor power at the lower limbs (4/5). At her recent medical history she had a sore throat 2 weeks ago (possibly tonsillitis undertreated) and a minor fall from a trampoline 4 weeks ago.

**Results:** The girl underwent emergent surgical evacuation of the abscess. The infection had invaded the lumbosacral fascia and the paraspinal muscles and a great amount of pus came out even during the muscle incision. A laminoplasty was performed from T10 to L4 and the abscess was completely removed. The girl was mobilised the first day postop with completely resolved symptoms. The isolated microbe was group-A streptococcus treated with 2 weeks intravenous antibiotics and 4 weeks orals. The postop MRI showed completely resolved pathology.

**Conclusion:** It is very important to recognise the triad of symptoms of SEA (spinal pain, fever, neurologic deficit) even in this group of age. Prompt intervention is crucial since serious SEA can cause paralysis and general sepsis. We recommend the use of laminoplasty even for the urgent cases for children due to the less risk of long term deformity and epidural scarring.