

## **B CELL LYMPHOMA OF THORACIC VERTEBRAE: A GREAT MIMICKER**

**Wan Irfan W Mustapha**, Ahmad Razali Md Ralib @ Md Raghif

Department of Radiology, IIUM Medical Centre, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

\*Corresponding author email: [drwanirfan@iium.edu.my](mailto:drwanirfan@iium.edu.my)

### **ABSTRACT**

Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) is a malignant neoplasm affecting multiple systems in which extranodal NHL represents 10-20% of all NHL. This is a case of a 45-year-old female with no known medical illness who presented with progressive numbness of bilateral lower limbs since March 2016 which subsequently progress to loss of motor power since November 2016. She initially was diagnosed as tuberculous (TB) spondylitis which then turned out to be B cell lymphoma of the thoracic vertebra. The diagnosis was confirmed on histopathological examination (HPE) after the patient underwent laminectomy of T3-T7 vertebra bodies and excision biopsy with the removal of the caseous material. Due to a lack of specific findings, the diagnosis of vertebral NHL is often missed or delayed. It warrants the attention that NHL of a thoracic vertebra may be misdiagnosed as TB spondylitis due to their similarities, and sometimes the imaging features may simulate and overlap each other. The main treatment for vertebral NHL is chemotherapy, radiotherapy or both. Surgery may be necessary if the patient has a story of neurological deficits. However, the patient was treated conservatively as she refused chemotherapy.

**Keywords:** bone lymphoma, tuberculous spondylitis