Pott disease

- **Tuberculous spondylitis**,
- refers to vertebral body and intervertebral disc involvement with tuberculosis (TB).
- The spine is the most frequent location of musculoskeletal TB, and commonly related symptoms are back pain and lower limb weakness/paraplegia.

TB

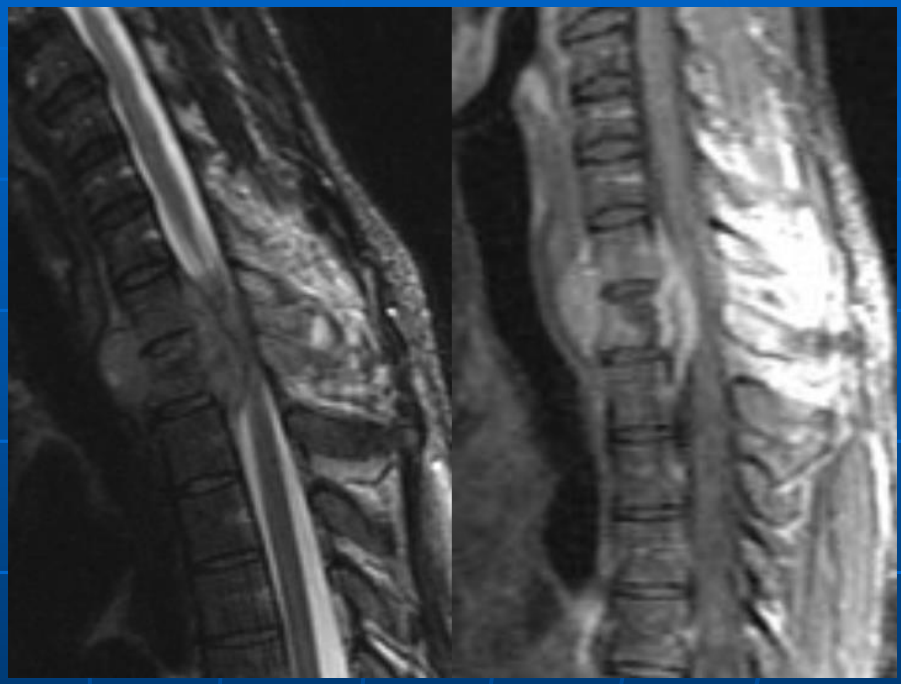
- More common infections of spine is tuberculosis, especially in countries where TB is prevalent.
- Unfortunately, the incidence of tuberculous spondylitis, as with other forms of TB, is on the rise, due to new multiple drug resistant strains.
- It represents ~ 50% of musculoskeletal tuberculosis, and usually affects the lower thoracic and upper lumbar levels of the spine .

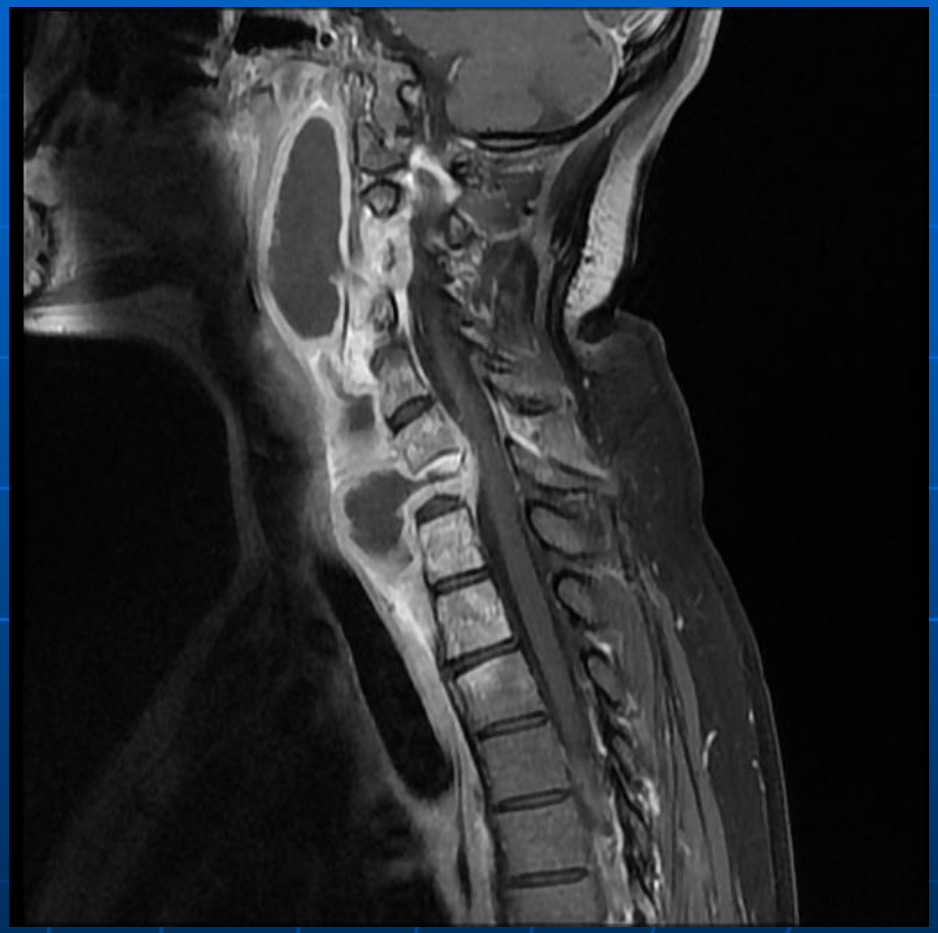
TB

- Involved due an hematogenous spread via the venous plexus of Batson
- Usually a slow collapse of one or usually more vertebral bodies, which spreads underneath the longitudinal ligaments.
- This results in an acute kyphotic or "gibbus" deformity.
- This angulation, coupled with epidural granulation tissue and bony fragments, can lead to cord compression.
- Unlike pyogenic infections, the discs can be preserved.
- In late-stage spinal TB, large paraspinal abscesses without severe pain or frank pus are common, leading to the expression "cold abscess"

TB of the spine (Pott's disease)

- Gibbus vertebrae
- Relatively intact intervertebral discs,
- Large paraspinal abscesses
- Isolated posterior element involvement possible





TB

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Sagittal STIR MR in a patient with TB infection shows involvement of contiguous vertebral bodies, with subligamentous abscess spread and partial disc involvement →. Multiple focal bone lesions are present without adjacent disc involvement ⇨.

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Sagittal T1WI C+ MR illustrates thoracic spinal TB with abnormally enhancing vertebral bodies & kyphotic deformity →. Large epidural abscess causes severe cord compression ↗. The paraspinal abscess shows typical peripheral enhancement ⇨.

TB

TB