THE CLINICAL FEATURES OF BONE TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDREN

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**Background.** Extra pulmonary tuberculosis is still becoming health problem in developing countries. Tuberculosis in bone leads special problems because they can cause neurological deficits, limitation of movement and permanent sequelae that decreases the children’s quality of life. The patients usually come in severe stage due to unawareness that the symptoms are related to TB.

**Objective.** This study wants to describe the clinical features of bone tuberculosis in children.

**Method.** This was a retrospective study of bone tuberculosis patients who came to Ciptomangunkusumo Hospital Jakarta, Indonesia during the period of 2 years (mid-term 2005-2007)

**Result.** Twenty-two patients (12 males; 10 females) were identified having bone tuberculosis. The age ranged from 19 months to 15 years old. Most of them (13 patients) had spondilitis; 5 patients had coxitis; 2 patients with gonitis and osteomyelitis. Almost all patients were mild to moderate malnourished. From 22 patients, only 2 patients showed negative tuberculin skin test. Among 20 patients who showed positive TST, the diameter of indurations were $\geq 15$ mm in 18 patients. Nine patients have positive BCG scar. All patients took anti TB for 12 months, but only four of them were performed surgery. The outcome of patients performed surgery was likely better than others. Most of patients suffered from permanent sequelae.

**Conclusion.** The most common bone tuberculosis in children is spondilitis, coxitis, osteomyelitis and gonitis respectively. Most patients showed indurations of TST $\geq 15$ mm. The outcome of patients with surgery was more likely to be better than others.