

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

In their paper 'Surgery for progressive Pott's paraplegia (tuberculous paraplegia)', Acikgoz *et al* (*Paraplegia* 1991 29: 537-541) stated that there was irrecoverable paralysis after surgical decompression of the spinal cord in 3 out of 20 patients.

One of the causes of failure of surgery in this condition is the underlying pathology of anterior spinal artery occlusion. Anterior spinal artery angiography in Pott's paraplegia has been carried out at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Bombay, to prove or disprove such an underlying cause (Mittal VA, *Indian Journal of Orthopaedics* 1990 24(1): 57-59).

It might be interesting to subject failed cases to the above procedure in order to ascertain whether failure was due to surgery or to a hitherto irreparable cause. It might also be worthwhile to carry out spinal artery angiography as a preoperative investigation to select patients for decompression of the spinal cord and/or to predict the outcome of surgery.

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Reply from Dr Acikgoz

I read with interest the criticism brought by Dr Mittal and also his manuscript entitled 'Anterior spinal artery angiography in Pott's paraplegia' in the *Indian Journal of Orthopaedics* 1990 24(1) 57-59.

Unfortunately we did not perform spinal angiography in the three cases mentioned. As Dr Mittal stated, angiography may add more to the evaluation of such patients especially to the understanding of pathophysiology.

In the near future, I assume, there will be more data on this topic because of the current use of MRI.

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