



IMAGES IN INTENSIVE MEDICINE

***Nocardia abscessus* epidural abscess[☆]**

Absceso epidural por *Nocardia abscessus*

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Available online 20 July 2022



This is the case of a 68-year-old man who works in a pet shop on topical treatment with corticoids and imiquimod. He started having descending palsy and severe respiratory failure. A cervical-dorsal magnetic resonance imaging was

performed, and a collection was identified in the C1–C5 paravertebral space that was hyperintense on contrast-enhanced T2-weighted sequence, which was suggestive of an abscessified collection that continues with another

DOI of original article: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.medin.2020.05.007>

[☆] Please cite this article as: Martínez de Pinillos Sánchez MV, Amat Serna T, Gordillo Resina MM. Absceso epidural por *Nocardia abscessus*. *Med Intensiva*. 2022;46:598–600.

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.medicine.2022.06.016>

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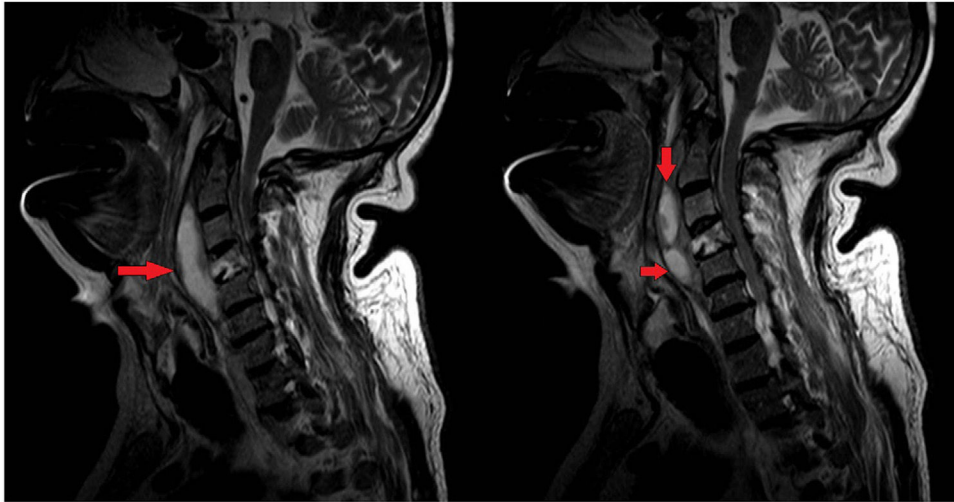


Figure 1 Abscessed collection in the C1–C5 paravertebral space, hyperintense on the T2-weighted sequence, that continues with a different C5–D1 collection (arrows).



Figure 2 Epidural damage surrounding the medullary cord from C2 to C6 on the T1-weighted sequence (arrows).

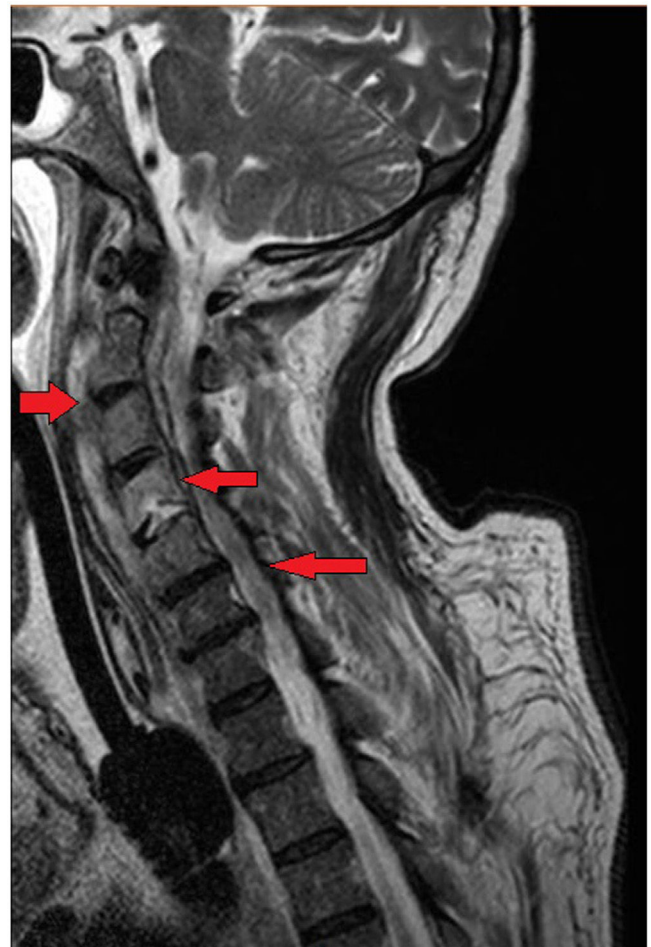


Figure 3 Reduction of paravertebral collection and epidural inflammatory component without evidence of the collection (arrows). Also, the arrows are pointing to the persistence of damage to the C4 vertebral body.

C5-D1 collection (Fig. 1). Also, epidural damage on the T1-weighted sequence was found surrounding the medullary cord from C2 to C6 (Fig. 2). The patient underwent emergency surgery and *Nocardia abscessus* was isolated from the samples obtained. The postoperative magnetic resonance image performed confirmed a reduction of paravertebral

collection and the epidural inflammatory component without evidence of collection with persistent hyperintensity on the T2-weighted sequence and damage to the C4 vertebral body (Fig. 3). The patient's progression was satisfactory with favorable final functional outcome.