

Spinal infection classification

Spine infections may be divided into the following major categories:

1. [vertebral osteomyelitis \(spondylitis\)](#):
 - a) pyogenic
 - b) nonpyogenic, granulomatous
 - [tuberculous spondylitis](#)
 - [brucellosis](#)
 - [aspergillosis](#)
 - [blastomycosis](#)
 - [Coccidioidomycosis](#)
 - infection with *Candida tropicalis*
2. [discitis](#): usually associated with [vertebral osteomyelitis \(spondylodiscitis\)](#)
 - a) [Spontaneous spinal infection](#).
 - b) post-operative/post-procedure
3. [Spinal epidural abscess](#)
4. spinal [subdural empyema](#)
5. [meningitis](#)

[Medulla oblongata abscess](#)

[Intramedullary spinal cord abscess](#)

MRI experience suggests that patients with infectious [spondylitis](#) will develop an associated [epidural abscess](#) if untreated, and that [epidural empyema](#) is unusual in the absence of [vertebral osteomyelitis](#)¹⁾.

Thus, the discovery of one of these conditions should prompt a search for the other.

¹⁾

Cahill DW. Infections of the Spine. Contemp Neurosurg. 1993; 15:1-8

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