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Image in rheumatology

Dual-energy CT for the diagnosis of sacroiliac and spinal gout

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A 43-year-old man presented with fever and lower back pain with no neurological deficits. MRI spine revealed inflammatory changes at L3–4 and L4–5 levels. He was treated for spinal infection with antibiotics but did not improve. Dual-energy CT spine demonstrated uric acid crystals deposition in the bilateral sacroiliac joints, L4/5 and L5/S1 inter-spinous ligaments and L4 facet joint (Fig. 1).

Antibiotics were discontinued and prednisolone was started with resolution of symptoms. Spinal gout is present in up to 29% of patients with gout, especially those with peripheral tophaceous deposits [1]. The lumbar spine and facet joints are typically involved [2].

References

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- [2] Elgafy H, Liu X, Herron J. Spinal gout: a review with case illustration. *World J Orthop* 2016;7:766–75.

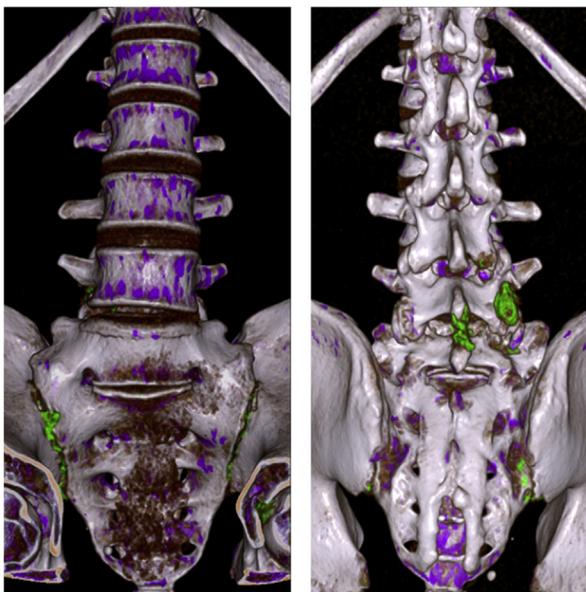


Fig. 1.

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