

# Tuberculous pre-auricular sinus: A case series of rare clinical presentation and management

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Pre-auricular sinus TB (PAS TB) is an uncommon disease. we present our experience with PAS TB, focusing on its clinical presentation, investigation, and treatment outcome. **Methods:** We conducted a retrospective observational study by analyzing the clinical data of patients diagnosed with PAS TB at our centre between 2021 and 2022. **Results:** Pre-auricular sinuses are among the most common congenital auricular abnormalities affecting 1–2% of individuals worldwide. There is limited reported literature on infected tuberculous pre-auricular sinus which may result in misdiagnosis as a common infected pre-auricular sinus. 3 cases of TB PAS were reported at our center which comprises 2 females and one male with ages ranging from 9 years old to 21 years old. Common presenting complaints are pre-auricular swelling, recurrent ear pain, recurrent ear discharge and pain. All 3 patients with infected pre-auricular sinus underwent incision and drainage of pus under local anaesthesia. Pus sent for acid-fast bacilli was positive. All the patients recovered well with anti-tuberculous medication and 2 patients subsequently had excision done. **Conclusion:** Diagnosis of tuberculous pre-auricular sinus poses a challenge due to its non-specific clinical presentation. Thus, a high index of suspicion should arise in cases of infected pre-auricular sinus not responding to conventional antibiotics and treatment to prevent delay in treatment and complications.