

Change of Pyogenic and Tuberculous Spondylitis between 2007 and 2016 Year : A Nationwide Study

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Objective : We attempted to compare the incidence of pyogenic spondylitis (PS) and tuberculous spondylitis (TS) between 2007 and 2016. Furthermore, we investigated the patients who underwent surgery in 2016 compared to that in 2007.

Methods : We used a nationwide database managed by the Korean National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) in 2007 and 2016. Total 9655 patients with a newly diagnosis of PS or TS were enrolled in PS or TS group. Among them, 1721 patients underwent either fusion or decompression surgery. We analyzed demographic distribution of patients according to gender and age and year of diagnosis.

Results : Comparing between 2007 and 2016, the incidence of PS has increased in 2016 than in 2007 (4874 vs. 2431, $p < 0.0001$). Conversely, declination of incidence of TS was discovered in 2016 compared to 2007 (594 vs. 1756, $p < 0.0001$). Females showed predominance over males regarding both PS and TS (5228 vs. 4427, $p < 0.0001$). Among them, the number of PS patients who underwent surgery increased significantly in 2016 relative to that in 2007 (979 vs. 592, $p < 0.0001$).

Conclusion : This nationwide study suggests that PS may increase and TS may decrease in Korea. In addition, demand for surgery regarding PS may increase.

Key Words : Nationwide study · Pyogenic spondylitis · Tuberculosis, Spinal · Epidemiology · Infectious spondylitis.

INTRODUCTION

Infectious spondylitis, also known as vertebral osteomyelitis, is an uncommon disease caused by specific microorganisms that affect the vertebral body and intervertebral disc and adja-

cent perivertebral soft tissue¹⁴). Etiologies such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* are considered to be the causes of pyogenic spondylitis (PS) and tuberculous spondylitis (TS), respectively²). In fact, PS accounts for 3–5% of all cases of osteomyelitis and TS represents 1–5% of all tuberculous infec-

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tions^{8,19}). Despite their rarity of incidence, several studies have established epidemiology of PS and TS. However, the studies lack large-scale and long-term data^{3,6,11,16,20}.

Nationwide studies are less subject to selection biases than case-series studies, thus they have more statistical power^{28,30}. Among the two nationwide studies related to the incidence of PS and TS, one study in France found increased incidence of vertebral osteomyelitis during 2002–2003, which involved only a short period¹¹. The other recent study done in Japan covered total 7118 patients with vertebral osteomyelitis, but

the study also involved short period of 2007–2010³.

This present nationwide study aims to investigate the changes in incidence of PS and TS and to investigate the patients who underwent surgery in Korea.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data source

Our study was approved by the Institutional Review Boards

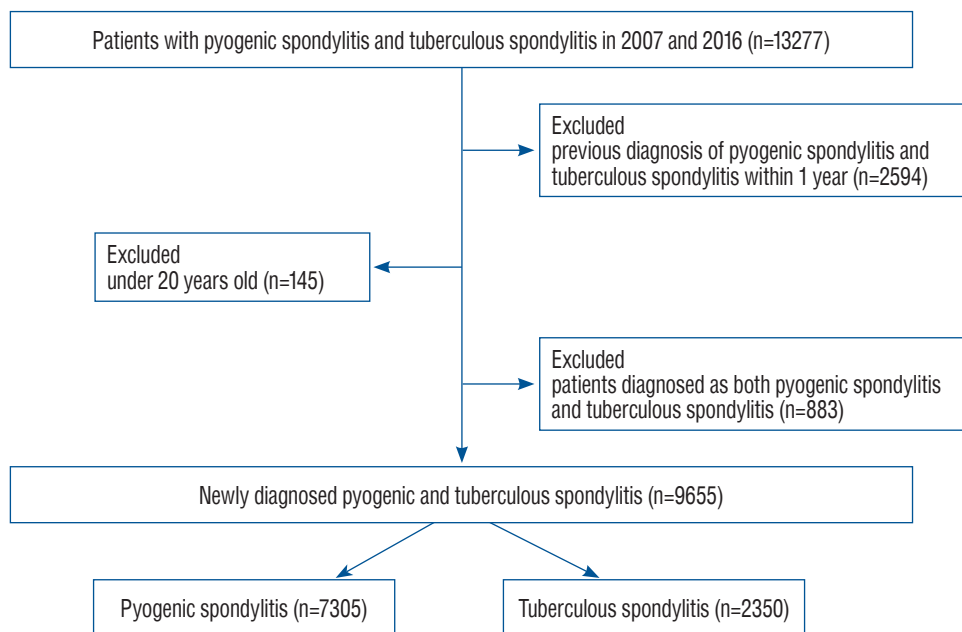


Fig. 1. Flow for establishment of this nationwide study. Among the patients with pyogenic spondylitis (PS) and tuberculous spondylitis (TS) (n=13277), patients with previous diagnosis of the diseases within 1 year was excluded. Subsequently, patients under 20 years old were excluded followed by exclusion of patients diagnosed as both diseases.

Table 1. ICD-10 codes and additional conditions used to define the incidence of PS and TS

Disease (ICD-10 code)	Additional conditions
Pyogenic spondylitis Osteomyelitis of vertebra (M46.2) Infection of intervertebral disc (pyogenic) (M46.3) Discitis, unspecified (M46.4) Other infective spondylopathies (M46.5) Other specified inflammatory spondylopathies (M46.8) Enterobacterial spondylitis (M49.2) Spondylopathy in other infectious and parasitic diseases classified elsewhere (M49.3)	No previous pyogenic spondylitis history within 1 year, and history of inpatient hospitalization during 1 year
Tuberculous spondylitis Tuberculosis of spine (M49.0)	No previous tuberculous spondylitis history within 1 year

ICD-10 : International Classification of Disease, 10th edition, PS : pyogenic spondylitis, TS : tuberculous spondylitis

Table 2. Characteristics of PS and TS group in year 2007 and 2016

Characteristic	Total (n=9655)	IR	95% CI	p-value	PS (n=7305)	IR	95% CI	p-value	TS (n=2350)	IR	95% CI	p-value
Gender												
Male	4427 (45.9)	22.99	0.228–0.231	<0.0001*	3455 (47.3)	17.94	0.178–0.180	<0.0001*	972 (41.4)	5.05	0.0504–0.0506	<0.0001*
Female	5228 (54.1)	28.04	0.264–0.267		3850 (52.7)	19.53	0.194–0.196		1378 (58.6)	6.99	0.0697–0.0701	
Age of diagnosis (years)												
20–29	378 (3.9)	5.36	0.0534–0.0538	<0.0001*	261 (3.6)	3.70	0.0369–0.0371	<0.0001*	117 (4.2)	1.66	0.0163–0.0169	<0.0001*
30–39	745 (7.7)	9.17	0.0913–0.0921		537 (7.3)	6.61	0.0658–0.0664		208 (7.5)	2.56	0.0254–0.0258	
40–49	1503 (15.6)	17.46	0.174–0.175		1214 (16.6)	14.10	0.141–0.1415		289 (10.5)	3.36	0.0333–0.0338	
50–59	2094 (21.7)	30.02	0.299–0.301		1647 (22.5)	23.61	0.235–0.237		447 (16.2)	6.41	0.063–0.064	
60–69	2819 (29.2)	63.06	0.629–0.632		2157 (29.5)	48.25	0.481–0.484		662 (24.0)	14.81	0.148–0.149	
70–79	1798 (18.6)	67.61	0.674–0.678		1280 (17.5)	48.13	0.480–0.483		518 (18.7)	19.48	0.194–0.196	
80–89	298 (3.1)	31.15	0.309–0.314		196 (2.7)	20.49	0.203–0.207		102 (3.7)	10.66	0.105–0.108	
Over 90	20 (0.2)	16.57	0.162–0.170		13 (0.2)	10.77	0.104–0.111		7 (0.3)	5.80	0.055–0.061	
Diagnosis year												
2007	4187 (43.6)	11.32	0.113–0.114	<0.0001*	2431 (33.3)	6.57	0.065–0.066	<0.0001*	1756 (74.7)	4.75	0.0473–0.0476	<0.0001*
2016	5468 (56.4)	13.35	0.133–0.134		4874 (66.7)	11.90	0.118–0.119		594 (25.3)	1.45	0.0144–0.0146	

Values are presented as number (%). Incidence rate was calculated as annual incidence rate per 100000 persons. *Indicates statistical significance. PS : pyogenic spondylitis, TS : tuberculous spondylitis, IR : incidence rate, CI : confidence interval

of Bundang CHA Medical Center (IRB 2017-08-027). The need for informed consent was waived because the data used consisted of deidentified secondary data released for research purposes which subsequently were analyzed anonymously. Data was obtained from the Korean National Health Insurance Service (NHIS) for the year of 2007 and 2016. NHIS has an extensive coverage up to 97% of the population in the Republic of Korea. The remaining 3% represent the lower income class, who are in the Medical Aid program. The NHIS claim database includes extensive information about demographics, medical care and treatments, medical procedures, and various disease diagnoses according to the 10th revised codes of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)^{12,17,18,22}. The database is open to any researchers whose study protocols have been approved by an official review committee.

Patient population

Fig. 1 depicts the flow for establishment of the nationwide study. Total 13277 PS or TS patients in the year of 2007 and 2016 were extracted followed by exclusion of 2594 subjects with previous history of PS and TS within 1 year. Then, 145 subjects under age of 20 were excluded. Eight hundred eighty-three subjects who were diagnosed both as PS or TS were excluded, subsequently. Thus, 9655 subjects participated in this study. The number of subjects in PS and TS group were 7305

and 2350, respectively. In addition to the incidence of two types of diseases, demographic data of comorbidities and patients with surgical treatments were evaluated. Surgical treatments were divided into fusion and decompression surgery in our study. Comorbidities were referred by the Charlson Comorbidity Index²⁶⁻³¹.

Definition of PS and TS

A newly diagnosed PS or TS were defined by applying the following criteria : 1) presence of an ICD-10 code for PS or TS and 2) no previous same spondylitis code history (PS or TS) within 1 year and/or a history of inpatient hospitalization within 1 year (Table 1). The ICD-10 codes for PS were M46.2 (osteomyelitis of the vertebra), M46.3 (infection of the intervertebral disc [pyogenic]), M46.4 (discitis, unspecified), M46.5 (other infective spondylopathies), M46.8 (other specified inflammatory spondylopathies), M49.2 (enterobacterial spondylitis), and M49.3 (spondylopathy in other infectious and parasitic disease classified elsewhere). The ICD-10 code for TS was M49.0 (tuberculosis of spine) (Table 1).

Statistical analyses

All rates were age-adjusted and expressed as a number per 100000 persons. The age-adjusted rates were standardized to the “Age Structure of Population in Korea” obtained from Statistics Korea. Logistic regression analysis was performed to

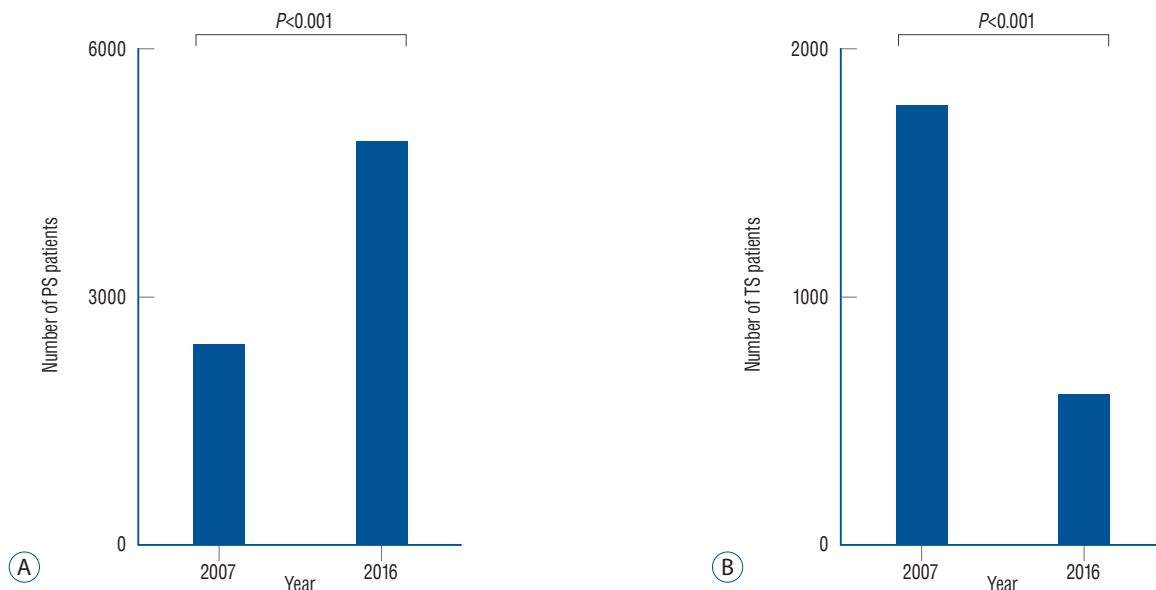


Fig. 2. Comparison of the incidence of PS and TS in 2007 and 2016. A : The incidence of PS was significantly higher in 2016 compared to in 2007. B : The incidence of TS outnumbered in 2007 relative to in 2016 ($P < 0.0001$). PS : pyogenic spondylitis, TS : tuberculous spondylitis.

Table 3. Characteristics of PS and TS patients who underwent surgery

Characteristic	Total (n=1721)	IR	95% CI	p-value	Fusion (n=878)	IR	95% CI	p-value	Decompression (n=843)	IR	95% CI	p-value
Diagnosis												
PS	1571 (91.3)	4.03	0.0403–0.0404	<0.0001*	791 (90.1)	2.03	0.02029–0.02031	<0.0001*	780 (92.5)	2.00	0.0199–0.0202	<0.0001*
TS	150 (8.7)	0.39	0.0038–0.0041		87 (9.9)	0.22	0.00221–0.0024		63 (7.5)	0.16	0.0015–0.0017	
Gender												
Male	931 (54.1)	4.84	0.045–0.052	<0.0001*	439 (50.0)	2.28	0.021–0.025	0.4394	493 (58.5)	2.56	0.023–0.028	<0.0001*
Female	790 (45.9)	4.01	0.037–0.043		439 (50.0)	2.23	0.020–0.025		350 (41.6)	1.78	0.016–0.020	
Age of diagnosis (years)												
20–29	51 (3.0)	0.72	0.005–0.010		20 (2.2)	0.28	0.002–0.004		31 (3.9)	0.44	0.003–0.006	
30–39	126 (7.3)	1.55	0.013–0.018		49 (5.5)	0.60	0.005–0.008		77 (9.2)	0.95	0.008–0.012	
40–49	294 (17.1)	3.42	0.031–0.038		127 (14.4)	1.47	0.012–0.018		168 (19.8)	1.95	0.017–0.023	
50–59	439 (25.5)	6.30	0.057–0.069		247 (28.1)	3.54	0.031–0.040		193 (22.7)	2.76	0.024–0.032	
60–69	568 (33.0)	12.70	0.117–0.138		312 (35.5)	6.98	0.063–0.078		256 (30.4)	5.73	0.051–0.065	
70–79	230 (13.4)	8.64	0.080–0.100		121 (13.8)	4.56	0.038–0.054		108 (12.9)	4.07	0.034–0.050	
Over 80	13 (0.8)	1.24	0.007–0.021	<0.0001*	3 (0.4)	0.32	0.0001–0.009	<0.0001*	10 (1.2)	0.93	0.005–0.017	<0.0001*
Diagnosis year												
2007	698 (40.6)	1.89	0.017–0.020		337 (38.4)	0.91	0.008–0.010		362 (42.9)	0.98	0.009–0.011	
2016	1023 (59.4)	2.50	0.024–0.027		541 (61.6)	1.32	0.012–0.014		481 (57.1)	1.18	0.011–0.013	
CCI												
0–2	674 (39.2)	1.73	0.016–0.019		285 (32.4)	0.73	0.006–0.008		390 (24.5)	1.00	0.009–0.010	
3–5	600 (34.9)	1.54	0.014–0.017		311 (35.4)	0.80	0.007–0.009		289 (18.3)	0.74	0.006–0.008	
6–7	211 (12.3)	0.54	0.0047–0.006		132 (15.0)	0.34	0.002–0.004		80 (5.1)	0.20	0.001–0.003	
Over 8	235 (13.7)	0.60	0.005–0.007		151 (17.2)	0.39	0.003–0.005		85 (5.3)	0.22	0.001–0.003	

Values are presented as number (%). Incidence rate was calculated as annual incidence rate per 100000 persons. *Indicates statistical significance. PS : pyogenic spondylitis, TS : tuberculous spondylitis, IR : incidence rate, CI : confidence interval, CCI : Charlson comorbidities index

Table 4. Characteristics of PS patients who underwent surgery

Characteristic	Total (n=1571)	IR	95% CI	p-value	Fusion (n=791)	IR	95% CI	p-value	Decompression (n=632)	IR	95% CI	p-value
Gender												
Male	855 (54.4)	4.44	0.042–0.048	<0.0001*	395 (50.0)	2.05	0.019–0.023	0.25	459 (58.9)	2.39	0.022–0.026	<0.0001*
Female	716 (45.6)	3.63	0.034–0.039		396 (50.0)	2.01	0.018–0.022		321 (41.1)	1.63	0.015–0.018	
Age of diagnosis (years)												
20–29	45 (2.8)	0.63	0.005–0.009	<0.0001*	13 (1.7)	0.19	0.001–0.003	<0.0001*	31 (4.0)	0.44	0.003–0.006	<0.0001*
30–39	112 (7.1)	1.38	0.012–0.017		39 (5.0)	0.48	0.004–0.007		72 (9.3)	0.89	0.007–0.010	
40–49	270 (17.2)	3.14	0.028–0.035		116 (14.6)	1.34	0.011–0.016		155 (19.9)	1.80	0.015–0.021	
50–59	410 (26.1)	5.88	0.053–0.065		228 (28.8)	3.27	0.029–0.037		182 (23.4)	2.61	0.023–0.030	
60–69	520 (33.1)	11.63	0.107–0.127		285 (36.1)	6.38	0.057–0.072		235 (30.1)	5.25	0.046–0.060	
70–79	203 (12.9)	7.64	0.067–0.088		107 (13.5)	4.02	0.033–0.049		96 (12.4)	3.63	0.030–0.044	
Over 80	11 (0.7)	0.98	0.006–0.018		3 (0.3)	0.24	0.0001–0.0086		8 (1.0)	0.74	0.004–0.015	
Diagnosis year												
2007	592 (37.7)	1.60	0.015–0.017	<0.0001*	278 (35.1)	0.75	0.007–0.009	<0.0001*	315 (40.3)	0.85	0.008–0.010	0.0001*
2016	979 (62.3)	2.39	0.023–0.026		513 (64.9)	1.25	0.012–0.014		465 (59.7)	1.14	0.010–0.012	
CCI												
0–2	604 (38.4)	1.55	0.014–0.017	<0.0001*	250 (31.6)	0.64	0.005–0.007	0.005*	354 (45.4)	0.91	0.008–0.010	0.004*
3–5	563 (35.8)	1.44	0.013–0.016		289 (36.5)	0.74	0.006–0.008		274 (35.1)	0.70	0.006–0.008	
6–7	195 (12.4)	0.50	0.004–0.006		119 (15.0)	0.30	0.002–0.004		77 (9.8)	0.20	0.001–0.003	
Over 8	209 (13.3)	0.54	0.004–0.006		134 (16.9)	0.34	0.002–0.004		75 (9.7)	0.19	0.001–0.003	

Values are presented as number (%). Incidence rate was calculated as annual incidence rate per 100000 persons. *Indicates statistical significance. PS : pyogenic spondylitis, IR : incidence rate, CI : confidence interval, CCI : Charlson comorbidities index

evaluate incidence rates by age and comorbidities. Differences in incidence rates according to gender and year of diagnosis were assessed by using the chi-square test. The analyses were performed using SAS ver. 9.2 software (for Windows; SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA).

RESULTS

Comparison of the PS and TS group between 2007 and 2016

The overall incidence of infectious spondylitis was 9655 persons during the study period (Table 2). The mean age of the subjects was 58.0 ± 14.0 years. Among them, PS and TS group consisted of 7305 and 2350 persons, respectively. Females showed predominance over males regarding both PS and TS ($n=3850$ vs. 3455 and 1378 vs. 972 , respectively, $p < 0.0001$). Similar inclination was also found in the incidence rate (19.53 vs. 17.94 and 6.99 vs. 5.05 , $p < 0.0001$). Mean age of females in PS and TS groups was 67.0 ± 13.3 and 63.5 ± 14.8 years. Mean age of males in PS and TS groups was 61.7 ± 14.6 and 59.0 ± 15.7 . The incidence of PS among the eight age groups ranged from 13 to 2157 subjects with the 60–69 years age group having the highest PS incidence ($p < 0.0001$). The 60–69 years age group also showed the highest incidence rate (48.25 , $p < 0.0001$). Sixty to 69 age group showed the highest peak in TS incidence with the range of seven to 662 subjects ($p < 0.0001$). The incidence rate was the highest among 70–79 years age group (19.48 , $p < 0.0001$). There was a significant difference in the annual incidence of PS and TS between 2007 and 2016 ($p < 0.0001$, Fig. 2). The incidence of PS in 2016 was significantly increased compared to that in 2007 (4874 vs. 2431 , $p < 0.0001$). The incidence rate of PS in 2016 was also increased compared to that in 2007 (11.90 vs. 6.57 , $p < 0.0001$). On the other hand, there was a decline in incidence of TS between 2007 and 2016 (1756 vs. 594 , $p < 0.0001$). The incidence rate of TS between 2007 and 2016 showed similar trend (4.75 vs. 1.45 , $p < 0.0001$, Table 2).

Comparison of PS and TS group patients who underwent surgery

Of 9655 patients with newly diagnosed PS or TS, a total of 1721 patients underwent surgical treatment (Table 3). Among the 1721 treated patients, 878 patients were treated by fusion

surgery and 843 patients were treated by decompression surgery. In gender analysis, males outnumbered females who underwent surgical treatment (931 vs. 790 , $p < 0.0001$). When the two surgical methods were stratified by patient age, the total number of patients who underwent surgery was the highest in the 60–69 years ($n=568$, $p < 0.0001$). There was an increment of patients in 2016 relative to 2007, in both fusion and decompression group (541 vs. 337 and 481 vs. 362 , respectively, $p < 0.0001$). Similar inclination was also found in the incidence rate (1.32 vs. 0.91 and 1.18 vs. 0.98 , respectively, $p < 0.0001$).

Among the 1721 surgically treated patients, the number of PS and TS group was 1571, and 150, respectively. Within seven age groups of PS patients, the 60–69 years age group showed the highest in PS group ($n=520$, $p < 0.0001$). There was a significant difference in the incidence of surgically treated PS patients between 2007 and 2016 (592 vs. 979 , $p < 0.0001$, Table 4). The incidence rate of surgically treated PS in 2016 was also increased compared to that in 2007 (1.60 vs. 2.39 , $p < 0.0001$, Table 4).

Among the 150 TS patients who underwent surgery, the number of patients treated with fusion and decompression was 87 vs. 63, respectively (Table 5). The 60–69 years age group showed the highest among the seven age groups ($n=48$, $p < 0.0001$).

DISCUSSION

The present study is the first nationwide study to demonstrate the change of incidence in PS and TS between 2007 and 2016. Our study found that the incidence of PS was significantly increased while TS was significantly decreased between 2007 and 2016. In addition, the overall inclination was found in PS patients treated with surgery.

There have been several reports for possible causes of increased PS incidence rate. Some studies suggested risk factors such as increased prevalence of intravenous drug abuse and of patients with immunosuppression^{5-8,25}. Some studies reported that the increase in PS could be related to the increasing ratio of aged people^{3,15}. Availability of better diagnostic methods may also have contributed to the increase in PS incidence^{7,8,13,15,33}.

Some studies suggested that the trend is due to an increase in nosocomial infection rate related to surgery or vascular devices or other medical procedures^{9,25}. One study found that 60% of 20 infectious spondylitis cases were derived from nos-

Table 5. Characteristics of TS patients who underwent surgery

Characteristic	Total (n=150)	IR	95% CI	p-value	Fusion (n=87)	IR	95% CI	p-value	Decompression (n=63)	IR	95% CI	p-value
Gender												
Male	77 (51.1)	0.40	0.003-0.005	0.65	44 (50.0)	0.23	0.001-0.003	0.23	33 (52.6)	0.17	0.001-0.003	0.27
Female	73 (48.9)	0.37	0.002-0.005		44 (50.0)	0.22	0.001-0.003		30 (47.4)	0.15	0.001-0.002	
Age of diagnosis (years)												
20-29	6 (4.1)	0.09	0.0001-0.0020	<0.0001*	6 (7.1)	0.09	0.0001-0.0020	0.33	0 (0.0)	0.00	-	0.38
30-39	14 (9.2)	0.17	0.0010-0.0029		9 (10.5)	0.11	0.0009-0.0021		5 (7.4)	0.06	0.0001-0.0015	
40-49	24 (15.9)	0.28	0.0019-0.0042		11 (12.8)	0.13	0.0001-0.0023		13 (20.1)	0.15	0.0001-0.0026	
50-59	29 (19.5)	0.42	0.0030-0.0060		19 (21.4)	0.27	0.0017-0.0043		11 (16.7)	0.15	0.0001-0.0028	
60-69	48 (31.8)	1.07	0.0081-0.0142		27 (30.5)	0.59	0.0041-0.0088		21 (33.7)	0.48	0.0031-0.0072	
70-79	26 (17.6)	0.99	0.0067-0.0144		15 (16.7)	0.55	0.0034-0.0094		12 (18.9)	0.45	0.0026-0.0079	
Over 80	3 (1.9)	0.27	0.0001-0.0086		1 (1.0)	0.08	0.0001-0.007		2 (3.2)	0.19	0.0001-0.0074	
Diagnosis year												
2007	106 (70.9)	0.29	0.0024-0.0035	0.04*	59 (68.1)	0.16	0.0012-0.0021	0.93	47 (74.7)	0.13	0.0001-0.002	0.29
2016	44 (29.1)	0.11	0.0001-0.0014		28 (31.9)	0.07	0.0001-0.001		16 (25.3)	0.04	0.0001-0.0006	
CCI												
0-2	70 (46.9)	0.18	0.0014-0.0023	0.01*	35 (40.3)	0.09	0.0001-0.0013	0.34	35 (56.1)	0.09	0.0001-0.0013	0.40
3-5	37 (25.0)	0.10	0.0001-0.0013		22 (25.4)	0.06	0.0001-0.0015		15 (24.4)	0.04	0.0001-0.0005	
6-7	16 (10.7)	0.04	0.0001-0.0006		13 (14.9)	0.03	0.0001-0.0004		3 (4.9)	0.01	0.0000-0.0002	
Over 8	26 (17.4)	0.07	0.0001-0.010		17 (19.4)	0.04	0.0001-0.0005		9 (14.6)	0.02	0.0001-0.0003	

Values are presented as number (%). Incidence rate was calculated as annual incidence rate per 100000 persons. *Indicates statistical significance. TS : tuberculous spondylitis, IR : incidence rate, CI : confidence interval, CCI : Charlson comorbidities index

ocomial acquisition, and a recent review insisted that hospital-acquired infection may have contributed to the increase in spinal infections^{10,24,32}. A retrospective cohort study ended up having around 20% of nosocomial acquisition^{1,23,24}. The increase in surgical and nonsurgical spine procedure is considered to be one of the main factors, and has been reported in previous studies²¹.

The incidence of TS may be decreased in parallel with declination of patients diagnosed as tuberculosis. Our study found out that the incidence of TS in 2016 was almost one third of that in 2007. Infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* seems to be decreasing due to improved public hygiene and good tuberculosis control⁴.

In addition to changes in incidence of PS and TS, we investigated distribution of patients according to their ages. Similar to previous studies, 60–69 years of age were the most prone to vertebral infectious disease^{8,10,11}. Correlation of age and infectious spondylitis may derive from immunodeficiency of the elders.

We discovered that preferred surgical methods were different among age groups. In PS group, patients between 20s and 40s were treated mainly with decompression surgery while the elders in their 60s and 70s underwent fusion surgery. Most TS patients underwent fusion surgery in their 60s and 70s.

Several limitations in this study should be noted. First, due to the basic limit of the NHIS database, it could not depict regional variations in disease diagnosis or reporting, such as differences between those in cities and in rural areas. Second, because deidentified data were provided from NHIS, we could not obtain each individual's all clinical information such as the quality of life, the severity of pain, and specific microorganism of spondylitis. Third, the presence of additional conditions is inevitable when creating research definitions for newly diagnosed PS and TS patients. Despite these limitations, to the best of our knowledge, our study is the largest nationwide study to compare the incidence of PS and TS in longest follow-up duration.

CONCLUSION

The present nationwide study suggests that PS is increasing and TS is decreasing in Korea. Furthermore, demand for surgery regarding PS is increasing.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

INFORMED CONSENT

This type of study does not require informed consent.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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Funding acquisition : SS

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