A female, aged 21 months, presented with fever and an orifice with output of purulent material, observed in the upper cervical region. Spinal and brain MRI are displayed in Figures A to D. The radiological diagnosis, with subsequent histopathologic confirmation, was dermal sinus associated with intramedullary spinal cord abscess.

The dermal sinus is a congenital anomaly resulting from incomplete division of ectodermal epithelium with neuroectodermal, in early fetal life, and the thoraco-lumbar spine is most frequently affected. An abscess is a known complication, though rare, especially in this location.

References