- A 46-year-old woman
- Patient with chronic back pain, exacerbated by flexion and extension

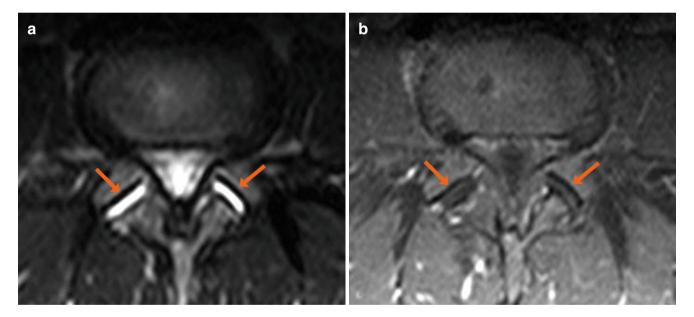


Fig. 1 (**a**, **b**) Axial TSE T2-weighted image with fat saturation (**a**), axial SE T1-weighted image with fat saturation following administration of contrast medium (**b**). Facet joints show widening of the joint space bilaterally. This space is

hyperintense in T2 (**a**, *arrows*), with no enhancement after contrast medium administration (**b**, *arrows*). These findings indicate joint effusion