

Arachnoiditis ossificans in a pediatric patient

Joseph Junewick · Shannon K. Culver

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A 14-year-old girl with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and progressive neuromuscular scoliosis presented with back pain 6 months after posterior spinal fixation. CT of the lumbar spine revealed numerous ossified dural plaques (Fig. 1, *arrows*). Semitransparent volume-rendered CT reconstruction shows the distribution of intraspinal ossifications (gray amorphous regions with white stippling) in

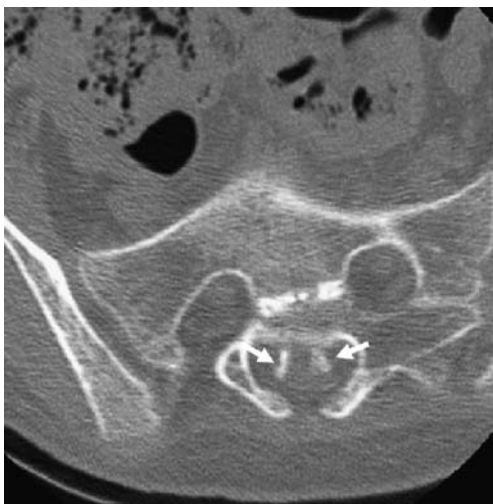


Fig. 1 Axial non-contrast CT image of the spine

J. Junewick (✉)
Department of Radiology, DeVos Children's Hospital,
100 Michigan NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503, USA
e-mail: jjunewick@comcast.net

J. Junewick
Grand Rapids Division, Advanced Radiology Services, P.C.,
Grand Rapids, MI, USA

J. Junewick · S. K. Culver
Department of Radiology, Spectrum Health Hospitals,
Grand Rapids, MI, USA



Fig. 2 Volume-rendered CT reconstruction

the nerve root sleeves and caudal recess (Fig. 2). The pedicle screws (*white areas*) at L5 are evident superiorly.

Arachnoiditis ossificans is a rare chronic meningeal inflammatory process that typically affects adults [1]. The pathogenesis is unknown but thought to be the result of end-stage adhesive arachnoiditis secondary to prior spinal surgery or trauma, subarachnoid hemorrhage or previous lumbar taps/injections [1, 2]. Ossified dural plaques can be asymptomatic or might cause pain, myelopathy, radicular signs, sensory disturbance or incontinence [1, 2].

References

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