Open-ring peripherally enhancing lesion of the cervical spine

Figure Sagittal STIR (A) and axial gadolinium enhanced T1-weighted (B) images demonstrate a 3.6-cm expansile lesion of the cervical spine extending from the C2 through C4 level with abnormal STIR signal and associated open-ring peripheral enhancement suggestive of active demyelination

A 26-year-old woman presented with progressive difficulty ambulating and upper and lower extremity numbness. Clinical examination showed dysesthesia and an allodynia sensation in the bilateral upper and lower extremities. She also demonstrated primary dysmetria and incoordination especially on finger to nose testing. Reflexes were extremely brisk and the gait was ataxic and unstable.

CSF analysis revealed increased IgG synthesis rate and oligoclonal banding consistent with multiple sclerosis.

To our knowledge, the association between open-ring peripherally enhancing lesions of the spine (figure) in patients with multiple sclerosis has been previously described only once in the Japanese literature.¹

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