New spasticity from cervical spine pathology in a patient with athetoid cerebral palsy

A 47-year-old woman with athetoid cerebral palsy (ACP) experienced isolated right-sided spasticity. Imaging revealed cord edema, a herniated disc, and anterolisthesis (figure, A, B, D). The patient underwent discectomy with spinal fusion (figure, F), and reported improved activities of daily living.

Cervical spine pathology is a well-known complication of ACP caused by repetitive head movements which accelerate degenerative joint disease (DJD), but is often overlooked. It may occur in any movement disorder with repetitive head movements. It includes disc degeneration, predominantly at C5/C6 (a common site in DJD), and listhetic instability.1,2 Suspicion for this pathology in patients with ACP may prevent permanent neurologic deficits.

Laura M. Allen, MD, and Mark A. Nigogosyan, MD, La Crosse, WI

Disclosure: The authors report no conflicts of interest.

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Laura Allen, 2016 Travis Street, La Crosse, WI 54601; lmallen@gundluth.org.

New spasticity from cervical spine pathology in a patient with athetoid cerebral palsy
Laura M. Allen and Mark A. Nigogosyan

Neurology 2008;70;1647
DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000310990.25418.fd

This information is current as of April 28, 2008

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/70/18/1647.full

References
This article cites 2 articles, 1 of which you can access for free at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/70/18/1647.full#ref-list-1

Citations
This article has been cited by 2 HighWire-hosted articles:
http://n.neurology.org/content/70/18/1647.full##otherarticles

Subspecialty Collections
This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
All Spinal Cord
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_spinal_cord
Disc disease
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/disc_disease
Prognosis
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/prognosis
Spastic paraplegia
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/spastic_paraplegia
Spinal cord trauma
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/spinal_cord_trauma

Permissions & Licensing
Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints
Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise