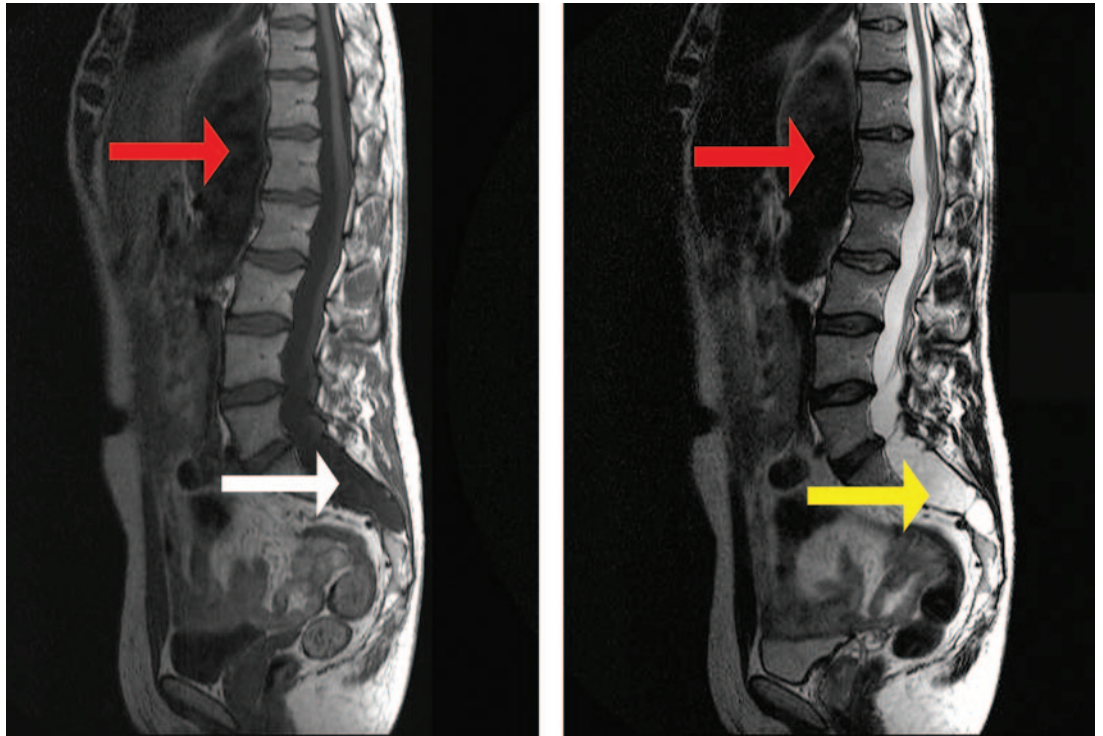


Dural ectasia in Marfan syndrome

Figure T1- and T2-weighted sagittal MR images of the lumbar spine



T1- and T2-weighted sagittal MR images of the lumbar spine reveal enlargement of the thecal sac (yellow arrow) with mild scalloping of the lumbar vertebral bodies and marked focal thinning of the sacrum (white arrow). An enlarged flow void anterior to the spine (red arrow) is related to dilation of the descending aorta.

A 29-year-old man was admitted to the hospital with intermittent recurrent episodes of back pain confined to the sacral area. During the course of his workup an MR examination was performed (figure).

Marfan syndrome¹ is an inherited multisystemic connective tissue disorder diagnosed by a combination of major and minor diagnostic criteria in each body system.

Dural ectasia² is a dilation of the dural sac and it is considered one of the major diagnostic criteria of Marfan syndrome; aortic dilation is considered one of the minor diagnostic criteria in the cardiovascular system.

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