Teaching NeuroImages:
Rib penciling and intraspinal dislocation of rib heads in type 1 neurofibromatosis

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An 11-year-old girl with 10 cafe-au-lait macules >5 mm in diameter with axillary freckling presented with progressive deformity of spine. Therefore diagnosis of neurofibromatosis 1 was made. Clinical examination revealed left thoracic scoliosis. Plain radiograph showed left dystrophic thoracic scoliosis with penciling of left fifth and sixth ribs (figure, A). CT scan and MRI showed intraspinal dislocation of double rib heads (figure, B and C). The patient underwent laminectomy and excision of dislocated rib heads with posterior instrumented fusion (figure, D). Dislocation of rib heads into spinal canal is extremely rare in type 1 neurofibromatosis and this anomaly should be recognized to prevent neurologic complications during surgery.1

REFERENCE

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Disclosure: Dr. Krishnakumar performs spine surgery (80% clinical effort). Dr. Renjitkumar performs spine surgery (80% clinical effort).

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