Teaching NeuroImages: Bilateral pedicular fractures in severe lumbar dural ectasia

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A 20-year-old man with neurofibromatosis I presented with back pain and altered sensation in the lower limbs without a radicular distribution and normal power. He subsequently developed urinary retention and reduced sensation to the level of T10. MRI and CT examinations performed to exclude cord compression demonstrated dural ectasia (expansion of the dural sac) resulting in elongated lumbar pedicles and bilateral chronic fractures (figures 1 and 2). Pedicular fractures are a recognized but rare complication of dural ectasia. It is postulated that pedicular weakness secondary to thinning relate to dural ectasia and result in stress fractures.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Dr. Rosa: collation of images, literature search, manuscript, and submission. Dr. Davagnanam: content ideas, reviewing and editing, corresponding author.

REFERENCES

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Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures.
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*Neurology* 2012;78;e11
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e31823efcd4

This information is current as of January 9, 2012

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