Cervical spine fracture associated with ankylosing spondylitis

A 53-year-old man with ankylosing spondylitis (AS) was found unresponsive on the ground. He was comatose and quadriplegic with absent cough and gag reflexes but preserved corneal and pupillary responses. CT of the spine (figure) showed displaced C2 fracture, severely deformed spinal cord, and complete spinal ankylosis. He developed hemodynamic instability with persistently poor arousal, and his family elected to withdraw care. AS, chronic inflammatory disease of the axial skeleton, results in ossified ligaments and loss of elasticity, predisposing to spinal fractures following minor trauma. Three-quarters of these fractures occur in the cervical spine, with associated mortality rate of 35%.1

Shamik Bhattacharyya, MD, Minjee Kim, MD

From Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA.

Study funding: No targeted funding reported.

Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

Correspondence to Dr. Bhattacharyya: sbhattacharyya3@partners.org

Cervical spine fracture associated with ankylosing spondylitis
Shamik Bhattacharyya and Minjee Kim
Neurology 2014;83;1297
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000000833

This information is current as of September 29, 2014

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/83/14/1297.full

References
This article cites 1 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/83/14/1297.full#ref-list-1

Subspecialty Collections
This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
All Immunology
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_immunology
All Spinal Cord
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_spinal_cord
Coma
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/coma
Critical care
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/critical_care
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