Absent triceps reflex with forearm flexion

A new form of inverted reflex

Joumana Freiha, MD, Madiha M. Shatila, MB BCH BAO, Kamal Tarabine, MD, Naji Riachi, MD, Raghid Kikano, MD, and Rechdi Ahdab, MD, PhD

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Correspondence

Dr. Ahdab
Rechdi.ahdab@lau.edu.lb

Figure Cervical spine MRI

Sagittal (A) and axial (B) T2-weighted imaging of the cervical spine demonstrating protruded discs at C4-C5 and C6-C7 narrowing the spinal canal (sagittal) and right foraminal disc protrusion impinging the C7 nerve exit (axial).

A 65-year-old man presented with neck pain and right arm weakness and tingling. Examination displayed grade 3/5 weakness of the right triceps and a C7 dermatome sensory loss. Triceps reflex testing elicited flexion rather than extension of the forearm (video 1). MRI demonstrated a large C6-C7 disc indenting on the thecal sac anteriorly and compressing the C7 root on the right side (figure). Spreading of the reflex to an adjacent myotome is a sign of cord injury with pathologic sensitization of the intrinsic cord circuitry. Inverted reflexes were also described in the knee¹ and brachioradialis.²

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Video

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Disclosure

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to [Neurology.org/N](https://www.neurology.org/N) for full disclosures.

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From the Departments of Neurology (J.F., M.M.S., N.R., R.A.) and Radiology (K.T., R.K.), Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon.

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Appendix Authors

Author	Location	Contribution
Joumana Freiha, MD	Neurology Department, Lebanese American University Medical Center, Beirut	Draft of manuscript and clinical care of the patient
Madiha Chatila, MB BCh BAO	Neurology Department, Lebanese American University Medical Center, Beirut	Draft of manuscript and clinical care of the patient
Kamal Tarabini, MD	Radiology Department, Lebanese American University Medical Center, Beirut	Analyzed and interpreted the MRI findings
Naji Riachi, MD	Neurology Department, Lebanese American University Medical Center, Beirut	Revision of manuscript
Raghid Kikano, MD	Radiology Department, Lebanese American University Medical Center, Beirut	Analyzed and interpreted the MRI findings
Rechdi Ahdab, MD, PHD	Neurology Department, Lebanese American University Medical Center, Beirut	Revision of manuscript and clinical care of the patient

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