

Absent triceps reflex with forearm flexion

A new form of inverted reflex

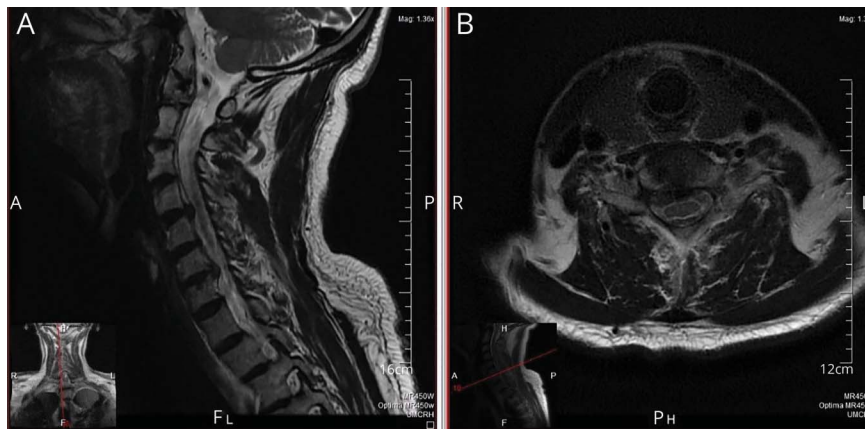
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Figure Cervical spine MRI



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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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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| 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 |
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