Teaching NeuroImages: Hirayama Disease With Symmetric Atrophy of Bilateral Distal Upper Extremities

Ye Liu, MD, PhD,* Yue Zhang, MD,* and Qiang Dong, MD

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Correspondence

Dr. Dong
dong_qiang@fudan.edu.cn

Figure Photography of the Patient's Hands and Neck MRI

(A) Wasting of bilateral dorsal interossei muscle. (B) Neutral sagittal T2-weighted MRI shows cord thinning and hyperintense signal at C5 to C7 levels. Neck-flexion sagittal (C) and axial (D) T2-weighted MRI show crescent-shaped enlarged posterior epidural space below C3 with flow void causing bilaterally symmetric flattening of the lower cervical cord.

A 15-year-old boy presented with progressive left to bilateral hand weakness and cold paresthesia over 1 year. Examination revealed atrophy of upper limb musculature, especially bilateral dorsal interossei muscle. Neutral MRI showed cord thinning and intramedullary hyperintensity at C5–C7 levels. Neck flexion MRI demonstrated bilaterally symmetric spinal cord compression due to dural sac anterior shifting (figure), suggestive of Hirayama disease (HD). HD mimics amyotrophic lateral

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*These authors contributed equally to this work.

From the Department of Neurology, Fudan University Affiliated Huashan Hospital, Shanghai, China.

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sclerosis–like symptoms and features an expansion of the dural sac on neck flexion MRI.¹ The majority of HD is unilateral or asymmetric but bilateral symmetric involvement is reported in 10% of patients and indicates more severe affliction.²

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Appendix Authors

Name	Location	Contributions
Ye Liu, MD, PhD	Fudan University affiliated Huashan Hospital, Shanghai, China	Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content; major role in the acquisition of data

Appendix (continued)

Name	Location	Contributions
Yue Zhang, MD	Fudan University affiliated Huashan Hospital, Shanghai, China	Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content; study concept or design
Qiang Dong, MD	Fudan University affiliated Huashan Hospital, Shanghai, China	Major role in the acquisition of data, study concept or design

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