A 47-year-old healthy man presented with intermittent low back pain radiating to the left calf; within 1 month, the pain worsened at night and disturbed his sleep. Examination showed paresthesia in left lateral calf, weakness in left ankle plantarflexion, and decreased ankle reflex. Neuroimaging revealed near-total obliteration of the spinal canal by a 2 × 1.2 cm nodule (asterisk) with ring enhancement (arrow) at L5-S1 level compressing the thecal sac. Axial T1-weighted nonenhanced (C) and enhanced (D) MRI at L5-S1 level show near-total obliteration of the spinal canal by the nodule (asterisks).

Figure 1 MRI of a Ruptured Lumbar Disc Mimicking a Spinal Tumor

Sagittal T1-weighted nonenhanced (A) and gadolinium-enhanced (B) MRI of the lumbar spine reveal a 2 × 1.2 cm nodule (asterisk) with ring enhancement (arrow) at L5-S1 level compressing the thecal sac. Axial T1-weighted nonenhanced (C) and enhanced (D) MRI at L5-S1 level show near-total obliteration of the spinal canal by the nodule (asterisks).

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The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org/N for full disclosures.

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References
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