Teaching NeuroImage: Dynamic MRI in the Evaluation of Cervical Myelopathy

Miguel Quintas-Neves, MD, and Ângelo Carneiro, MD, MSc

Correspondence
Dr. Quintas-Neves
mlqneves@gmail.com

Figure 1 Dynamic MRI of the Cervical Spine, Sagittal View

A 44-year-old woman, with a childhood history of motor vehicle accident, was referred to neurosurgery due to progressive tetraparesis, inability to walk, generalized hyperreflexia, and bilateral extensor plantar reflexes (American Spinal Injury Association Impairment Scale D/Japanese Orthopaedic Association score 7), without bowel/bladder dysfunction. Dynamic MRI (Figures 1 and 2) showed spinal cord edema/gliosis at the C1 level and atlanto-axial subluxation. During flexion, severe canal stenosis was observed, confirming atlanto-axial instability. Posterior arthrodesis was performed and resulted in resolution of instability with no neurologic deterioration after 3 months. Dynamic MRI in the supine position can be an accurate technique to unveil occult cervical canal stenosis. Although most cases are revealed or aggravated during extension, flexion should also be tested.

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From the Department of Neuroradiology, Hospital de Braga, Portugal.
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Figure 2 MRI of the Cervical Spine, Axial View

Axial T2-weighted imaging at rest at the level of C1 confirms the bilateral spinal cord hyperintense lesion, in keeping with gliosis/edema.

Appendix Authors

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miguel Quintas-Neves, MD</td>
<td>Department of Neuroradiology, Hospital de Braga, Portugal</td>
<td>Acquisition of data, clinical and imaging data review, literature review, final manuscript writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelo Carneiro, MD, MSc</td>
<td>Department of Neuroradiology, Hospital de Braga, Portugal</td>
<td>Clinical and imaging data review, literature review, final manuscript writing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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References


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