

# Spondylosis

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## SPONDYLOSIS:

- ankylosis* of vertebra
- any degenerative* spinal lesion.
- progressive *degeneration of intervertebral discs*, leading to *proliferative changes of surrounding structures*

CSM – cervical spondylotic myelopathy.

## ETIOPATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Degenerative changes of spine *universally accompany aging!*

see p. Spin11 >>

Most are sequelae of **intervertebral disc degeneration** - **LOSS OF DISC HEIGHT** causes:

- narrowed** intervertebral foramina.
- increased load** on vertebral bodies → reactive vertebral changes → **osteophytes**.
  - most osteophytes are anterior or lateral in projection.
  - osteophytes reduce range of movement and may result in spontaneous fusion.
- increased load** on facet & uncovertebral (Luschka) joints → **hypertrophic osteoarthritic changes**.
  - remodelling of articular surfaces → instability → forward **slippage** of upper on lower vertebra.
  - synovial cysts** are frequently solid (cartilaginous or myxomatous) - can be confused with migratory disc fragments or intraspinal tumor; attachment to joint space is characteristic.
- bulging of disc annulus**; osteophytes converge on protruded annulus, and may convert it into bony ridge (transverse bar) that protrudes posteriorly (compromising spinal canal); protrusion laterally compromises foramina.
- laxity** of ligaments + **increased load / traction** on ligaments → **infolding (hypertrophy) of ligamentum flavum, ossification of posterior longitudinal ligament** (see below)

These changes narrow SPINAL CANAL\* & INTERVERTEBRAL FORAMINA

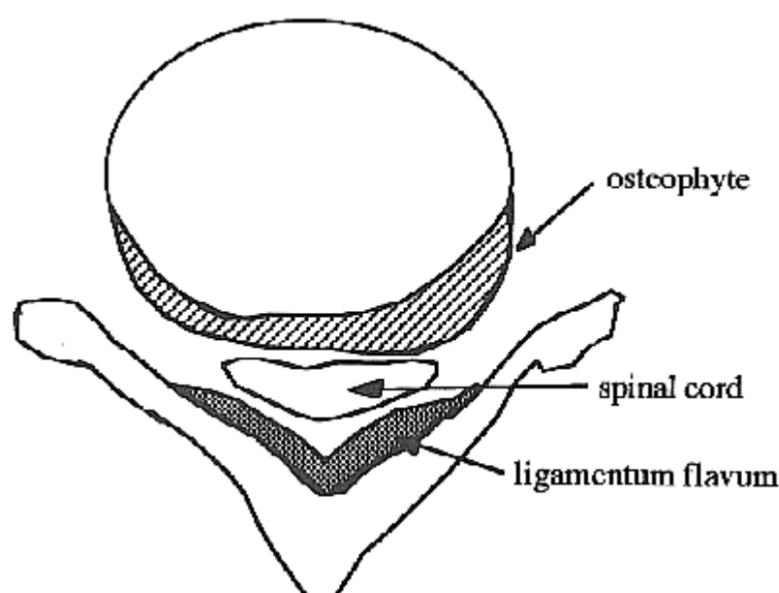
\*acquired *SPINAL STENOSIS* - may form **subarachnoid block** (with CSF protein content↑ below block).

N.B. patients with *congenitally narrow spinal canal* are at increased risk!

**CENTRAL CANAL stenosis** can cause **myelopathy** (cervical) or **cauda equina syndrome** (lumbar)

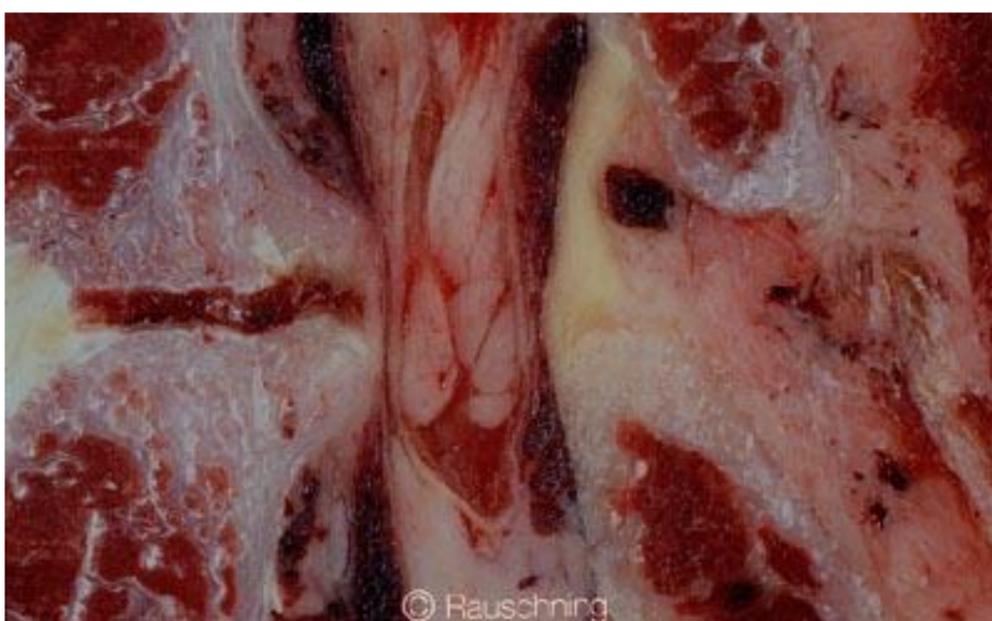
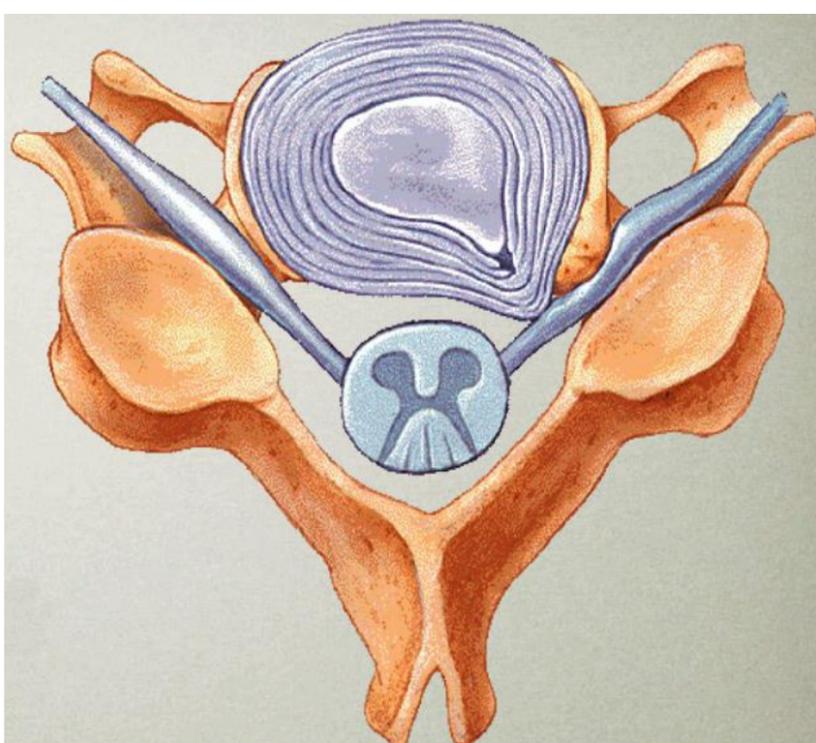
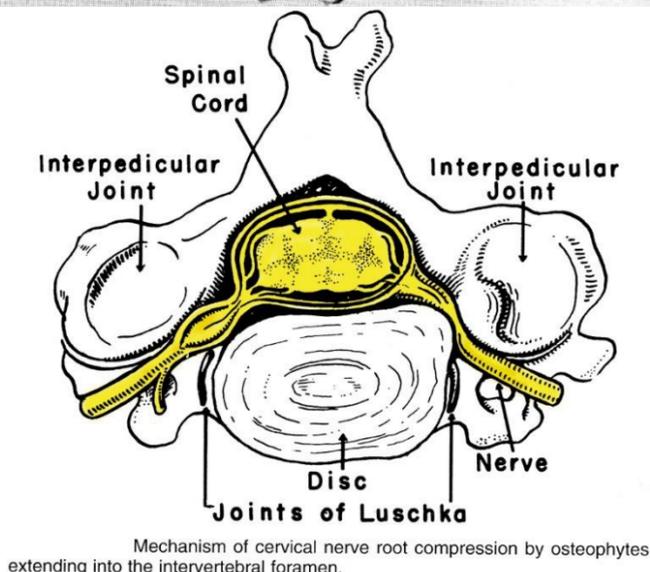
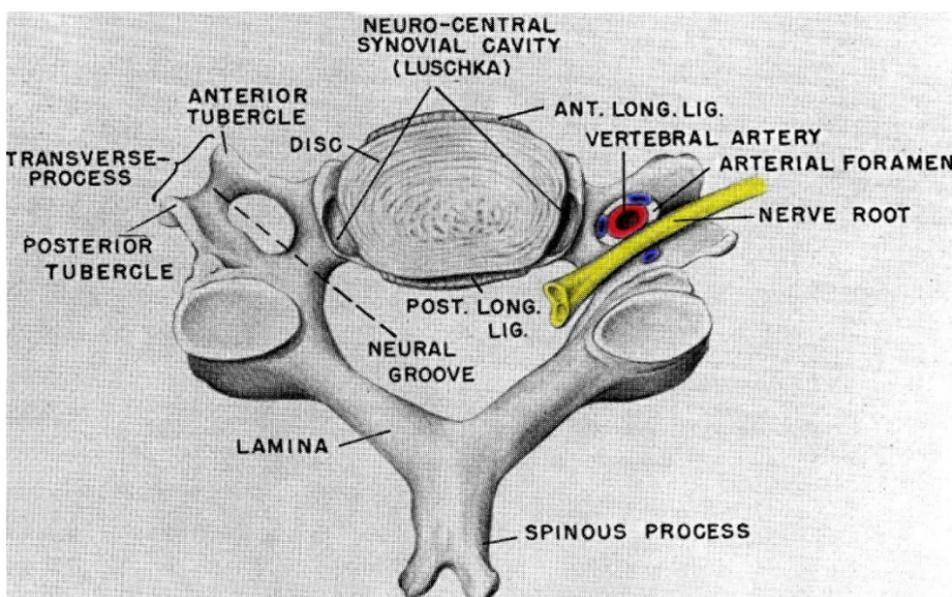
**LATERAL RECESS stenosis** can cause **radiculopathy**.

**INTERVERTEBRAL FORAMEN stenosis** can cause **radiculopathy**.



Sources of **OSTEOPHYTES** compromising intervertebral foramen:

- edges of vertebral **bodies**.
  - facet (interpedicular, zygapophyseal) **joints**
  - uncovertebral (Luschka) **joints** (only in cervical vertebrae).
- on sagittal MRI or reformatted CT, foramina appear as *comma-shaped, fat-filled spaces* just above disc level; roots exit via bulbous upper portion (just below pedicles) - early degeneration of disc and facet joints effaces only fat inferior to nerve roots.



**MECHANISMS of damage / irritation to neural structures**

- A) **STATIC mechanical factor - direct compression** (by stenosis of spinal canal & foramina) → distorted / flattened spinal cord (spondylotic bars may leave deep indentations on ventral surface of spinal cord).
- compression is usually *intermittent* (or intermittently accentuated by neck movement).
  - *cord substance is relatively inelastic* - retains impression of impinging agent even when contact is removed.
  - *cord damage* is sustained only when **sagittal diameter of cord is reduced by > 50%**.
    - *in thoracic region, far greater compression is tolerated* (because of reduced mobility of this part of spine) - cord becomes focally molded around calcified masses (which can occupy 60% of spinal canal) with no clinical abnormality.

H: *decompressive surgery*

- B) **DYNAMIC mechanical factor - rubbing\* (repeated trauma) on protruding structures** (that may not themselves be severely compressive) → *demyelination* of spinal columns.
- \*cephalad / caudal cord movement in course of normal flexion and extension, traction by dentate ligaments
- *posterior columns* demyelinate above compression; *corticospinal tracts* - below compression.

H: *surgical fusion*

- C) **ISCHEMIA secondary to compression** - **arterial deprivation** and/or **venous stasis** → ischemic *neuronal loss* in central gray matter (sometimes syringomyelia can be found); root sleeves may be thickened and rootlets adherent.
- *subluxation of zygapophyseal joints* may compress vertebral arteries.
  - oligodendroglia is particularly susceptible to ischemia → early **demyelination** of the corticospinal tracts (pathological change seen with spondylotic myelopathy).

**EPIDEMIOLOGY**

RISK FACTORS:

- 1) **aging** - major risk factor!!!
- 2) prior **trauma** (usually no history of significant trauma) or repeated occupational trauma (such as carrying axial loads or vibrations)
- 3) prior **disc herniation**
- 4) cervical **dystonia**
- 5) **congenital spinal anomalies**
- 6) **systemic arthritic** disorders
- 7) **obesity**
- 8) **genetic** predisposition (e.g. Down syndrome)
- 9) **smoking**

Spondylotic changes increase with advancing age:

- age 20-30 yrs – 5-10% have changes on radiographs  
N.B. spondylosis can begin in persons as young as 20 years!
- age 45 yrs – 50%
- age 59 yrs – 85% men (70% women)
- age 70 yrs – 97% men (93% women).

vs. disc herniations – highest incidence in 30-50 yrs.

### CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS

- PREVALENCE is rising.
- most common cause of spinal cord dysfunction in patients > 55 yrs.
- most common cause of nontraumatic spastic paraparesis / quadriparesis.
  - in one series, 23.6 % of patients with nontraumatic paraparesis / quadriparesis had CSM.

## CLINICAL FEATURES

Spondylotic changes *become clinically important* when they cause **local pain** and / or **neurological dysfunction** (MYELOPATHY, RADICULOPATHIES). see p. Spin11 >>

- patients can have either myelopathy or radiculopathy, or combination of both.
- lumbar spondylosis cannot cause myelopathy; instead, cauda equina can be damaged!

ONSET **insidious**, COURSE **slowly progressive**

Spondylosis clinically  $\approx$  disc herniation with protracted course. *further see PROGNOSIS >>*

### CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS

N.B. occasionally patient presents with **catastrophic onset** of quadriparesis or paraparesis after neck trauma (esp. fall).

Axial **neck pain**  $\pm$  **myelopathy** and / or **radiculopathy**

Myelopathy – see p. Spin15 >>

Radiculopathy – see p. PN1 >>

1. **AXIAL NECK PAIN (CERVICALGIA)** (present in 90% cases)
  - neck pain is **axial**; root pain is uncommon.
  - may be prominent (exacerbated by **any movements**\*).
    - \*vs. disc herniation – pain during extension and lateral flexion toward painful side (side of herniation)
  - some **limitation of neck mobility**.
  - $\pm$  **Lhermitte's** sign.
  - anterior osteophytes may produce **dysphagia**.
2. **ARMS** (depending on level of **myelopathy** and degree of **root involvement**):
  - 1) **sensory loss** may follow simple radicular pattern or, more commonly, **patchy distribution** (multiple **root** and **cord** involvement!) often in “glove” distribution!
  - 2) **weakness**:
    - a) **LMN** with fasciculations and atrophy (esp. in hands)
    - b) **UMN** with brisk reflexes\* - less severe than in legs.
      - \*absence of jaw jerk  $\uparrow$  helps to differentiate from general hyperreflexia
  - clumsiness with fine motor skills (buttoning, writing)
  - slow, stiff opening and closing of fist.
  - **inverted radial reflex** (pathognomonic): flexion of fingers in response to brachioradialis reflex.
  - **“finger escape” sign**: with eyes closed and fingers kept adducted, 5<sup>th</sup> finger begins to abduct.
  - sensory level can be detected in  $\approx$  40% patients.
3. **LEGS** (depending on the degree of **myelopathy**):
  - 1) spastic **weakness** (**proximal**) with clonus, positive Babinski & Hoffmann (“dynamic Hoffmann’s sign” more sensitive)
  - 2) **sensory loss** (esp. vibratory and position sense; occasionally pinprick sensation) & **paresthesias** (almost always **below ankle**)
  - coughing or straining exacerbates leg weakness.
  - elderly patient may present for **gait problems** or **falls** (rather than as direct complaint).
  - **bowel / bladder dysfunction** are uncommon?

### SYNDROMES

1. **Motor syndrome**: corticospinal tract and anterior horns with minimal or no sensory deficit.
2. **Central cord syndrome**: motor and sensory deficit (upper extremities > lower extremities).
3. **Brown-Sequard syndrome** (in asymmetric narrowing of spinal canal).
4. **Brachialgia and cord syndrome**: radicular upper extremity pain with LMN weakness, some associated long tract involvement (motor and/or sensory).
5. **Transverse syndrome** (most frequent “end-stage” syndrome): corticospinal and spinothalamic tracts, posterior columns,  $\pm$  segmental anterior horns.

### LUMBAR SPONDYLOSIS

- spinal canal stenosis is usually **confined to one or two lumbar levels**:
  - a) most common syndrome - isolated **L4-5** disorder with L<sub>5</sub> radiculopathy (unilateral or bilateral);
  - b) **L3-4** segment is affected less often (either alone or in combination with L4-5 stenosis);
  - c) **other levels** are rarely affected.
- symptoms may be episodic.

*Lumbar spondylosis usually produces no symptoms* - when back or sciatic pains are complaints, lumbar spondylosis usually is unrelated finding!

1. **BACK PAIN** (present in > 50% cases) is not dominant symptom.
2. **LUMBAR RADICULOPATHY**
  - leg **pain** (bilateral or unilateral).
  - straight leg-raising is limited in few cases.
  - leg weakness is rare (many show **weakness of isolated muscles**)
  - urinary incontinence is rare.

- **characteristic symptom (almost all patients!) – PSEUDOCLAUDICATION (s. NEUROGENIC INTERMITTENT CLAUDICATION)** - unilateral or bilateral discomfort in buttock / thigh / leg on **walking** or **prolonged standing** (postural claudication).
  - patients use words “pain”, “numbness”, “weakness”, but there is often no objective sensory loss or focal muscle weakness.
  - discomfort is relieved within minutes by **lying down**, **sitting\***, or **flexing at waist\*** (N.B. pain may persist in recumbency until spine is flexed).
  - discomfort persists if patient stops walking but does not flex spine\*\*.
  - no loss of pulses\*\*, no trophic skin changes in feet\*\*.
  - PATHOGENESIS:
    - 1) spine hyperextension (when walking) increases disc protrusion, causes infolding of ligamentum flavum, narrows spinal canal and foramina.
    - 2) leg muscle exercise → ↑blood flow to lumbar cord → root vessels dilate but are confined by bony changes → compress roots.
    - 3) root microvascular deficiency - activity-related increases in metabolic rate of nerve roots cannot be met.

\*vs. disc herniation pain  
\*\*vs. vascular claudication

## DIAGNOSIS

It is very important to establish **best possible correlations** between *clinical findings* and *imaging abnormalities* - **high rate of radiological spondylosis in asymptomatic populations!**

**Intervertebral foramen** must be reduced < 30% of normal to cause root compression

other criteria: posterior disk height < 4 mm, foraminal height < 15 mm.

## PLAIN X-RAY

(include oblique views for neural foramina!)

- show degenerative changes of **bony elements**, but **do not reveal relationship** of these to neural structures!

- *radiological features of osteoarthritis* (if present) are identical to other synovial joints - joint space narrowing, subchondral sclerosis and cyst formation, osteophyte formation.
- **"vacuum phenomenon"** - gas within apophyseal joint / intervertebral disc - pathognomonic for advanced degenerative process!

## CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS

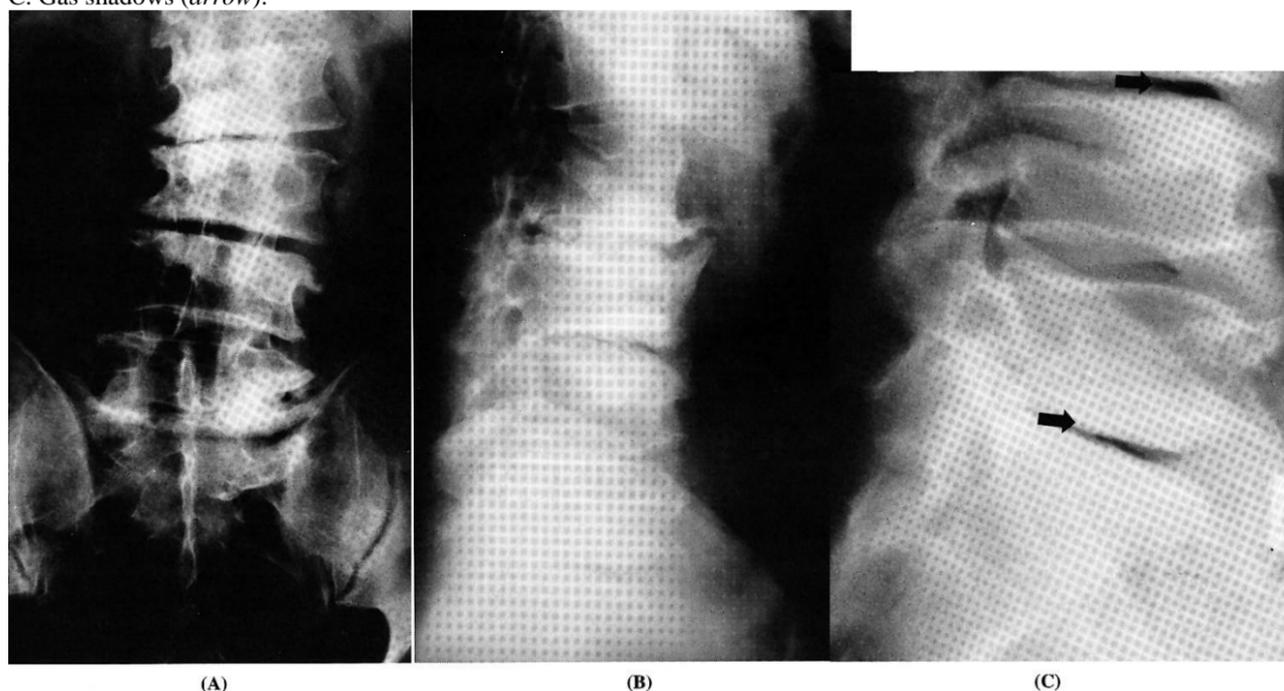
- simple **flexion - extension films** (performed with care!) can demonstrate **spinal instabilities** (that are not apparent on MRI or CT myelography!).

Osteophytes at C5-6 interspace:



## LUMBAR SPONDYLOSIS

- A. Lateral osteophytes at each level but most marked at L2-3 and L3-4 with narrowing of disk space (esp. L2-3).  
B. Narrowing and irregularity of disk spaces, large osteophytes anteriorly at L2-5.  
C. Gas shadows (*arrow*).



## MRI

- easiest noninvasive means of diagnosis! - can demonstrate dimensions of spinal canal and foramina + distortion of spinal cord and roots.

- **T1 & T2** – what gives compression – **osteophytes** vs. **soft herniated disk** (will desiccate in time → spontaneous improvement)
- **gadolinium enhancement** – only to exclude *alternative* lesions.

## CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS

N.B. imaging must be high enough (to demonstrate craniocervical junction)!

Most important features:

1. **CSF effacement** (obliteration of subarachnoid space) & **spinal cord deformation** (compression)
2. **Focal cord atrophy:**

- 1) reduction in **transverse CORD AREA** (esp.  $\leq 45 \text{ mm}^2$ )
- 2) reduction in **sagittal CORD DIAMETER**

Sagittal diameter\* of **cervical canal**  $< 9\text{-}10 \text{ mm}$  - cord compression is probably present.

\*most severely compromised between posterior-inferior edge of vertebral body and anterior-superior edge of subjacent lamina.

- combination of **focal reduction in sagittal cord diameter by 50% + obliteration of posterior subarachnoid space**  $\approx$  clinical myelopathy.
  - **widening of transverse cord diameter** usually implies at least 50% reduction in sagittal diameter!
3. **T2 signal  $\uparrow$**  within cord substance - reflects cord damage (**myelomalacia**).
    - bright focal T2 signal mainly in central areas (on axial images - appearance of "snake eyes").
    - frequently disappears after decompressive surgery with good outcome (but T2 signal  $\uparrow$  per se is not indication for surgery).



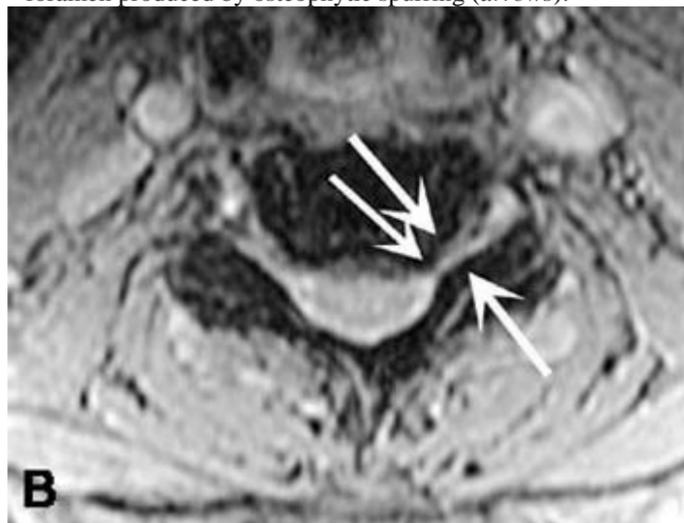
Maximum canal compromise (%) =

$$\left( 1 - \frac{D_i}{(D_a + D_b)/2} \right) \times 100\%$$

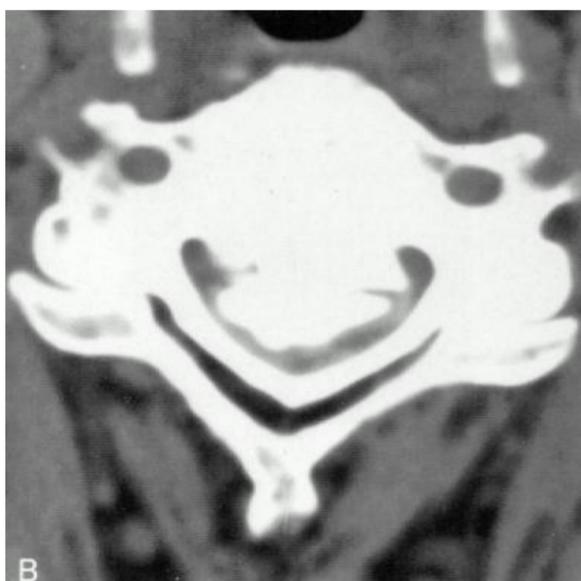
**Cervical spondylosis, left C<sub>6</sub> radiculopathy:**

**A.** Sagittal T2-MRI - hypointense osteophyte which protrudes from C<sub>5-6</sub> level into thecal sac, displacing spinal cord posteriorly (*white arrow*).

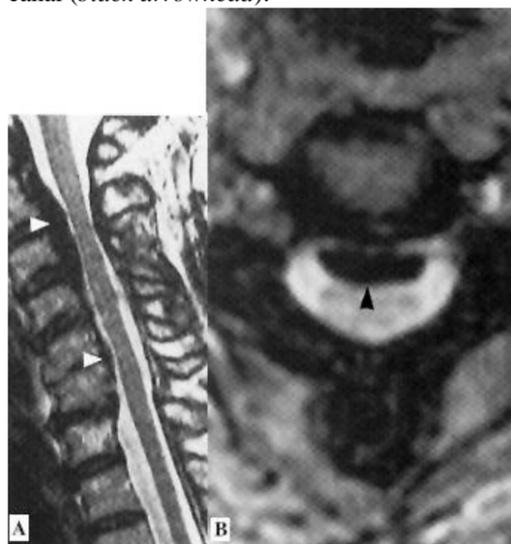
**B.** Axial MRI - high signal of right C<sub>5-6</sub> intervertebral foramen contrasts with narrow high signal of left C<sub>5-6</sub> intervertebral foramen produced by osteophytic spurring (*arrows*):



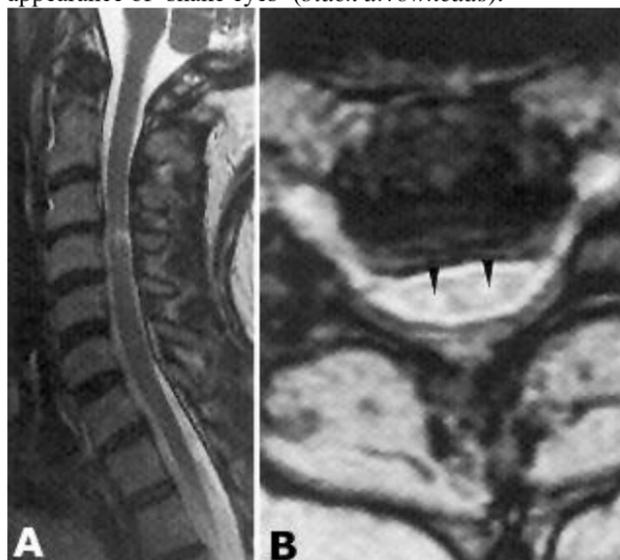
Focal spinal cord compression from single osteophyte at C<sub>3-4</sub> level - dense calcification typical of **segmental ossification of posterior longitudinal ligament** (**B. CT; A. T1-MRI**):



**Ossification of posterior longitudinal ligament (T2-MRI)**  
 - mild spinal cord compression by thickened posterior longitudinal ligament (*white arrowheads*) within spinal canal (*black arrowhead*):



**Cervical spondylotic myelopathy with myelomalacia (T2-MRI)**: moderate compression of spinal cord at C<sub>3-4</sub> level; focal increased signal in cord substance; on axial image - appearance of 'snake eyes' (*black arrowheads*):



**LUMBAR SPONDYLOSIS**

74-year-old man with neurogenic claudication - **severe lumbar stenosis** (T2-MRI): degenerative changes at multiple levels with severe spinal stenosis and crowding of cauda equina:



**CT myelography**

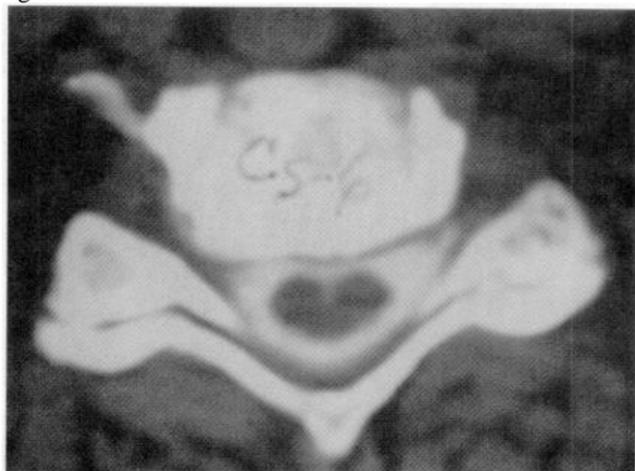
- used to answer any *questions that remain after MRI*.

Myelography in spinal cord compression has slight risk that existing *myelopathy may worsen and become permanent!*

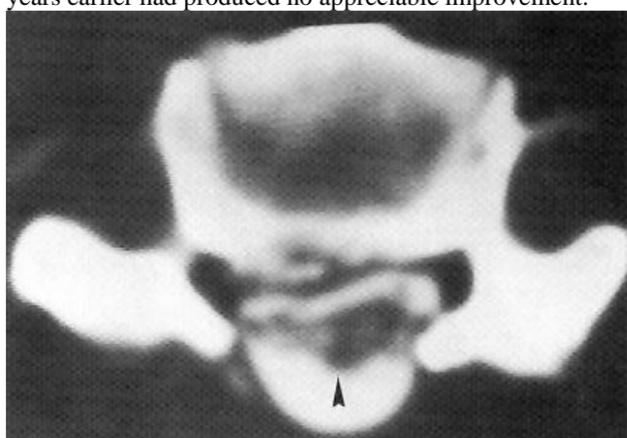
- MYELOMALACIA - intramedullary contrast penetration and retention (best shown on delayed postmyelography CT).

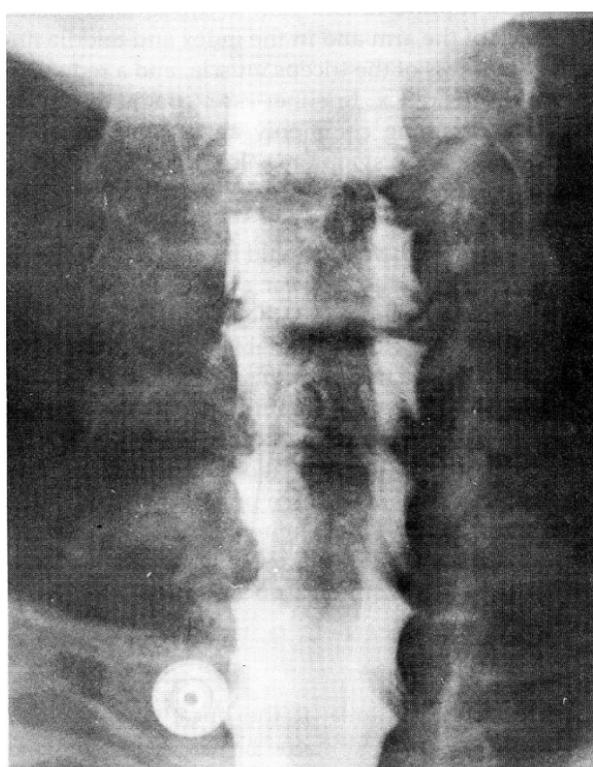
**CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS**

**Cervical foraminal stenosis** (CT myelogram): with cutoff of right C<sub>6</sub> root.

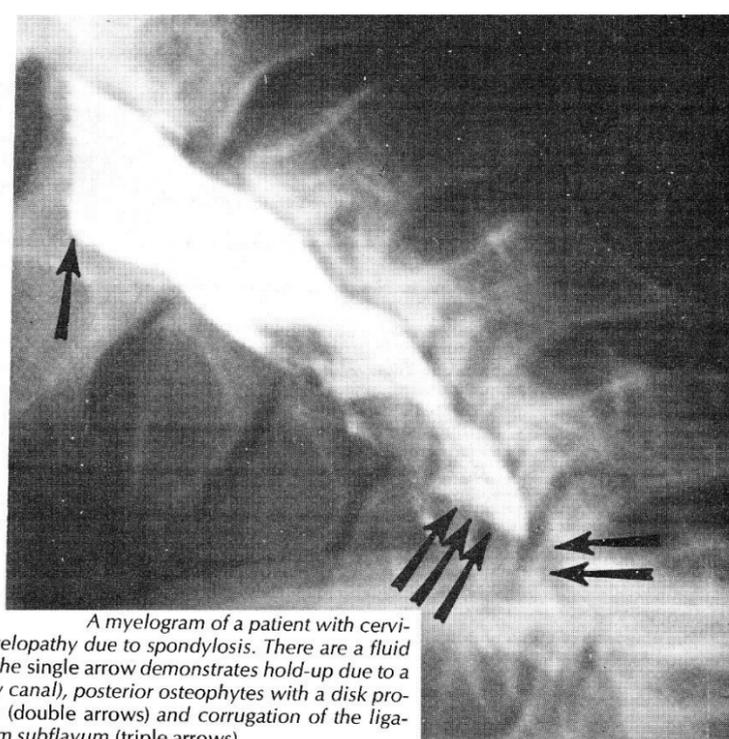


**Cervical spondylotic myelopathy** (CT myelography): spinal cord (arrowhead) is deformed and contrast medium has accumulated within it. Extensive cervical laminectomy 6 years earlier had produced no appreciable improvement:





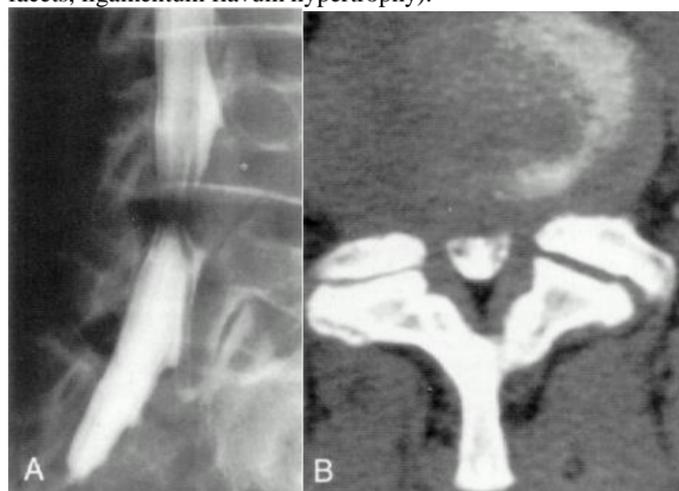
Cervical myelogram of a 62-year-old man with weakness and numbness of both hands and a spastic gait shows midline cervical disks that interrupt the column of dye at several levels. Cervical cord compression was found at operation.



A myelogram of a patient with cervical myelopathy due to spondylosis. There are a fluid level (the single arrow demonstrates hold-up due to a narrow canal), posterior osteophytes with a disk protrusion (double arrows) and corrugation of the ligamentum subflavum (triple arrows).

### LUMBAR SPONDYLOSIS

High-grade lumbar L<sub>4-5</sub> stenosis: A. Myelogram. B. Postmyelographic CT - circumferential stenosis (disc bulging, enlarged facets, ligamentum flavum hypertrophy).



## DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- particularly important when dealing with condition that is commonly present as asymptomatic radiological finding!

1. **Multiple Sclerosis** – younger age, fluctuating course, early bladder symptoms, visual complaints, mental status changes.
2. **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis** – LMN signs are evident from beginning, but spasticity predominates in few; muscle atrophy and increased reflexes in same myotome strongly suggest ALS; bulbar symptoms or signs!!!; absent sensory loss!!!  
5% ALS patients undergo cervical laminectomy!
3. **Primary Lateral Sclerosis**.
4. **Subacute Combined Degeneration of Spinal Cord** – deficits are often primarily sensory; hypersegmented PMN, macrocytic anemia.
5. **Spinal AVM, spinal dural AV fistula** (can cause myelopathy) – seen on MRI.
6. **AIDS Myelopathy** – most patients are young; ascending sensory disorder.
7. **Tabes Dorsalis**
8. **HTLV-I Myelopathy (Tropical Spastic Paraparesis)** – slowly progressive spastic paraparesis with early bladder involvement in patient from endemic region.
9. **Familial (Hereditary) Spastic Paraplegia** – autosomal dominant disorder.
10. **Syringomyelia** - segmental loss of spinothalamic modalities.
11. **Compressive Lesions** (e.g. meningiomas, schwannomas, epidural abscess)
12. **Compressive Lesions at Craniocervical Junction:**
  - 1) Chiari malformation
  - 2) atlanto-occipital or atlanto-axial instability (e.g. in RA)
13. **Normal pressure hydrocephalus**

N.B. in young patients (< 40 yrs) tumors, spinal A-V malformations, and congenital anomalies are more common causes of neck pain than is cervical spondylosis!!!

## CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT

1. **Immobilization:**
  - a) cervical – firm cervical collar.

- b) **lumbar** – absolute bed rest.
- 2. **Heat, massage, cervical traction** – see p. S20 >>
- 3. **NSAIDs** for pain.
- 4. **Epidural steroid injections** - for major radicular pain; questionable value for lumbar and cervical radiculopathies (in multiple studies).

Patients with cervical spondylosis are at increased risk of **tetraplegia after minor trauma!**

## SURGICAL TREATMENT – CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS

### INDICATIONS

- 1) intractable **radiculopathy** (esp. motor)
- 2) if **myelopathy** progresses / remains severe\* despite conservative measures.  
 N.B. surgery is for myelopathy (not for neck pain!)  
 \*surgery is most effective when performed early (< 6 months symptom duration) for all degrees of CSM!

### Surgery vs. conservative management for cervical myelopathy

*Kadanka Z et al. Approaches to spondylotic cervical myelopathy: conservative versus surgical results in a 3-year follow-up study. Spine 2002; 27 : 2205 – 2211*

- 3-year outcome of surgery vs. conservative management for myelopathy with modified Japanese Orthopedic Association (mJOA) score of  $\geq 12$ .
- class II evidence.
- majority of surgical patients had anterior decompression.
- **study did not show that surgery is superior** to conservative therapy:
  - no significant difference in the mJOA scores and in daily activities.
  - small but significant improvement in the 10-m walk favoring those treated conservatively.
  - older patients do better with conservative treatment (Kadanka et al. 2005).

### ACDF vs. PT for cervical radiculopathy

*Engquist M "A 5- to 8-year randomized study on the treatment of cervical radiculopathy: anterior cervical decompression and fusion plus physiotherapy versus physiotherapy alone" J Neurosurg Spine. 2016 Aug 26:1-9*

- 5-8-year outcome of ACDF + structured PT program vs. the same PT program alone in patients with cervical radiculopathy.
- patients were randomized to ACDF + PT (30 patients) or to PT alone (29 patients).
- **both treatment groups experienced significant improvement over baseline for all outcome measures** but in some measures ACDF did better:

Improvement at 5-8 years	ACDF + PT	PT	p value
Neck Disability Index [NDI]	21% (95% CI 14-28)	11% (95% CI 4-18)	0.03
<b>neck pain</b> VAS	39 mm (95% CI 26-53)	19 mm (95% CI 7-30)	0.01
<b>arm pain</b> VAS	33 mm (95% CI 18-49)	19 mm (95% CI 7-32)	0.1
health state EQ-5D questionnaire	0.29 (95% CI 0.13-0.45)	0.14 (95% CI 0.01-0.27)	0.12
patient global assessment - self-rating by patients - patients rated their symptoms as "better" or "much better"	93%	62%	0.005

VAS = visual analog scale

### Cloward ACDF vs. PT vs. immobilization with rigid cervical collar for cervical radiculopathy

*Persson LCG et al. Cervical radiculopathy: pain, muscle weakness and sensory loss in patients with cervical radiculopathy treated with surgery, physiotherapy or cervical collar. A prospective controlled study. Eur Spine J 1997 ; 6 : 256 – 266*

- class II evidence.
- **surgery results in a more rapid relief of radicular pain, sensory loss, and muscle weakness** compared to conservative measures although the longer-term outcomes appear to be similar:

1) **pain:**

	Surgery	Physiotherapy	Rigid collar	Statistical significance
<b>Reduction in Visual Analogue Score for pain at 3 months follow-up</b>	29%	19%	4%	$p < 0.05$

– at 1 year, there was no difference in the relief of pain between any of the groups.

- 2) **sensory loss/paresthesia** - significant relief in the surgical group at 4 months → no differences at 16 months.
- 3) **muscle strength** - slightly better in the surgery group at 4 months → no differences at 16 months.

## SURGICAL TREATMENT – LUMBAR SPONDYLOSIS

### INDICATIONS

- pain / claudication / radiculopathy severe enough to impede quality of life despite conservative measures

## PROGNOSIS

### CERVICAL SPONDYLOTIC MYELOPATHY

Natural course of CSM for any given individual is variable - precise prognostication is not possible

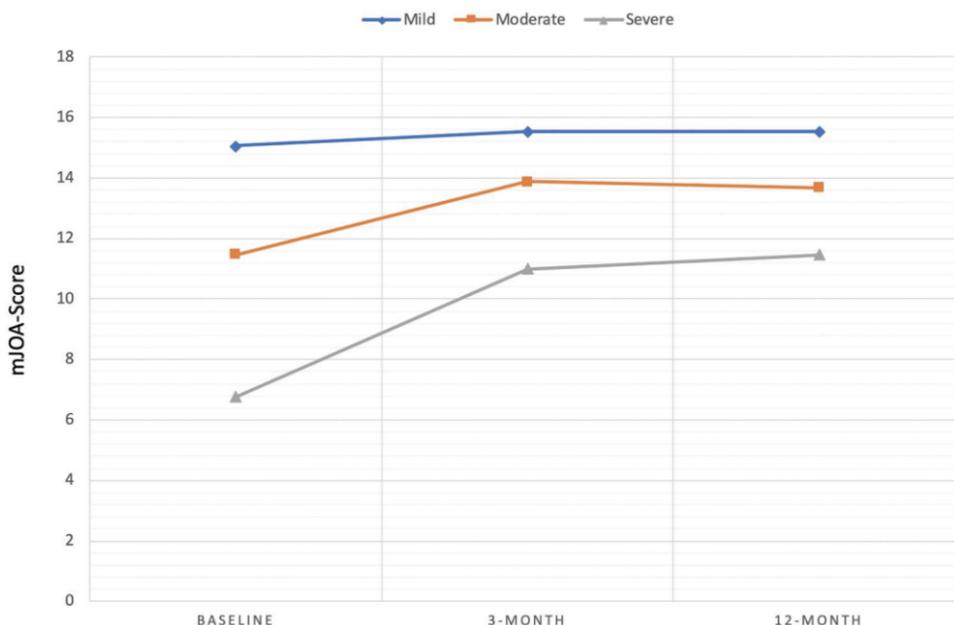
- in 75% patients course is **progressive** (gradual or stepwise), although many (even severe cases) achieve static period and **remain stable** for many years (or even improve spontaneously\*).  
 \*60–70% fibrocartilagenous masses of discogenic origin can diminish in size or disappear completely over few weeks or months.  
 N.B. if **osteophytes disappear**, look for **aortic aneurysm** - can cause pressure erosions of adjacent vertebrae!
- patients with **spinal hypermobility** are more likely to deteriorate without surgery.
- **surgery results:**  
 25-75% patients improve;  
 5-50% patients worsen! (even adequately decompressed spinal cord may demonstrate progression of myelopathy although probably slower than natural history!)

### Trajectory of improvement in myelopathy after surgery for degenerative cervical myelopathy

*Trajectory of Improvement in Myelopathic Symptoms From 3 to 12 Months Following Surgery for Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy. Inamullah Khan et al. Neurosurgery, Volume 86, Issue 6, June 2020, Pages 763–768*

- 2156 patients who underwent elective surgery for DCM.
- **3-months:** most patients improved significantly from baseline, regardless of their baseline mJOA severity.

- **3-to-12-months:** baseline mJOA had significant impact - patient with severe mJOA score at baseline had a higher likelihood of improvement in their myelopathic symptoms, compared to patients with mild mJOA score.



N.B. patients should be encouraged to continue and stimulate the neural pathways on their own and through directed therapy to achieve maximal medical improvement! However, severely myelopathic patients will not improve to the point of matching their counterparts with mild baseline myelopathy.

## SPECIAL ENTITIES

### DIFFUSE IDIOPATHIC SKELETAL HYPEROSTOSIS (s. DIFFUSE IDIOPATHIC SKELETAL HYPEROSTOSIS, FORESTIER disease)

- generalized spinal and extraspinal articular disorder characterized by calcification and ossification of ligaments, particularly of anterior longitudinal ligament.

### OSSIFICATION OF POSTERIOR LONGITUDINAL LIGAMENT (OPLL)

- variant of cervical spondylosis (may be focal or diffuse)
- most common in Asians.
- surgical removal is often difficult (adherent to dura mater – warn patient about CSF leak!) – use cautiously high speed drill.
- if OPLL extends at C2 and above, impossible to remove calcified ligament – use laminectomy up to occipital bone decompression.

Ossification of the Posterior Longitudinal Ligament:

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/739284?src=mp&spon=26>

Conservative Management of Ossification of the Posterior Longitudinal Ligament: A Review:

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/739285?src=mp&spon=26>

Surgical Management of Cervical Ossification of the Posterior Longitudinal Ligament: Natural History and the Role of Surgical Decompression and Stabilization:

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/739286?src=mp&spon=26>

Ossification of the Posterior Longitudinal Ligament

Pathogenesis, Management, and Current Surgical Approaches: A Review

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/739292?src=mp&spon=26>

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