

Extensive epidural fluid collections: does it influence the outcome?

Coleções exuberantes de líquido epidural: influência na resposta ao tratamento?

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A 32-year-old woman presented with a three-day history of orthostatic headache. Brain CT and MRI were normal. Hole-spine MR myelography and conventional Spine MRI disclosed exuberant enlargement of posterior epidural space and images suggestive of cervical CSF leak (Fig 1). CT myelography confirmed CSF leak. It was performed conservative treatment without symptom relief. Clinical improvement was only evident after third epidural blood patch. Five months later, she remained asymptomatic despite maintaining exuberant collections, not supporting a correlation between imagiological and clinical improvement (Fig 2). Another question that remains to be solved is whether the extent of the collections of CSF influences the outcome¹.



Fig 1. Spinal MRI – hyperintense sign on T2 sequences (A, C, D) with no corresponding hyperintense sign on T1 (B), suggesting not fat tissue but large collections of CSF into the epidural space that extends from cervical (C3) to the lumbar segments (L1-L2). Upper arrow: dura mater; lower arrow: extended epidural space.

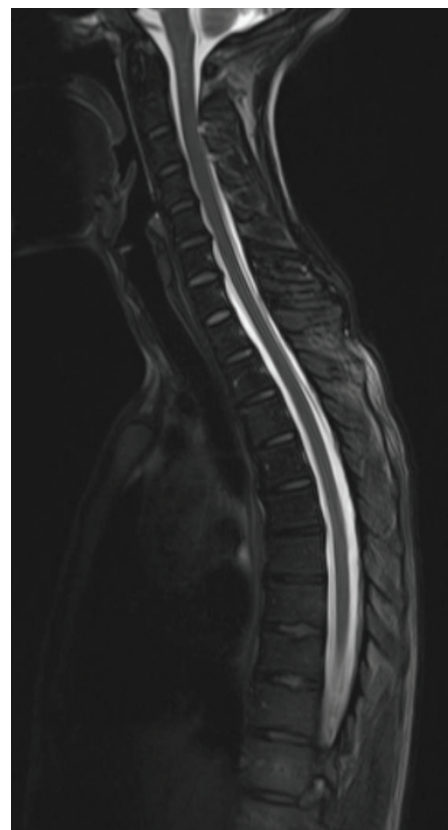


Fig 2. Spinal MRI five months after epidural blood patch, revealing no imagiological improvement.

References

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