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Lumbar epidural cysts among children

Arthur Andre, Giovanna Paternoster, Federico Di Rocco, Michel Zerah
Hôpital Necker Enfants Malades, Paris, France

Spinal epidural arachnoid cysts are relatively rare lesions developed from a defect of the dura mater, expanding in the epidural space. We performed a comprehensive review of the literature and we report a case of a lumbar epidural arachnoid cyst from our institution.

Various causes are suspected in the literature, as local inflammatory process, previous surgery, spinal trauma or genetics. In the pediatric population, spinal arachnoid cysts are mostly located in the thoracic region and more often intradural than epidural. The main presentations are progressive spinal cord compression with motor weakness, radiculopathy or back pain. The treatment is surgery with complete removal. Usual outcomes are good.

Here we present the case of a 13 year-old girl, suffering from inflammatory lumbar pain. The MRI findings show a CSF signal epidural mass, located at the L1-L3 level, creating a conus medullaris and cauda equina roots radiologic compression. We performed a complete surgical resection, with a single level laminotomy, exposure of the posterior wall of the cyst, complete cyst fenestration, visualization and repair of the dural defect.

The patient had very good outcome postoperatively. Lumbar epidural arachnoid cysts are very rarely reported in children. Total surgical exclusion and identification of the defect of the dura mater are the key points of those lesions management.

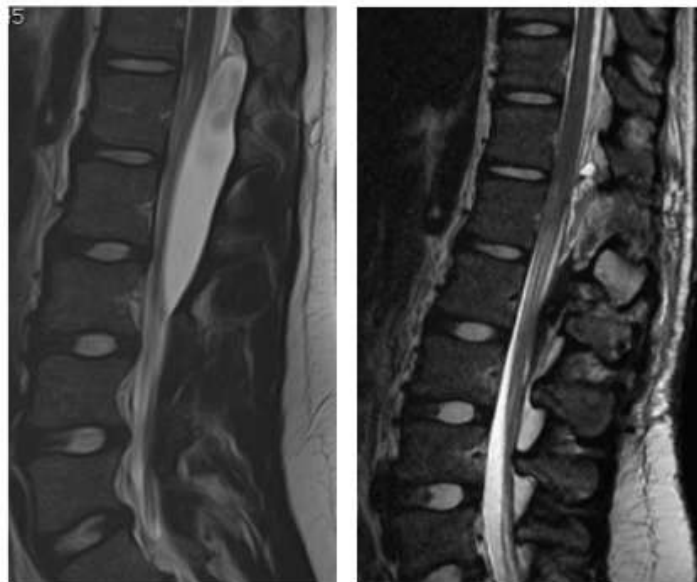


Figure: Pre- and post-operative sagittal T2 weighted MRI images of the lumbar spine with L1 to L3 level epidural cyst