Pediatric Intervertebral Disc Calcification Causing Cord Compression –A Rare Presentation.

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ABSTRACT

Intervertebral disc calcification in children is rare. We present a case of a 9yr old boy with acute neck pain and restricted neck movements without any antecedent trauma. Initial radiograph showed calcification of C4-5 disc. MRI demonstrated posterior disc herniation causing cord compression. The symptoms resolved with conservative treatment. It is a benign self limiting condition in children with most cases resolving with conservative treatment.

Keywords: Intervertebral disc calcification, Pediatric, MRI.

INTRODUCTION

Pediatric intervertebral disc calcification is a rare benign condition. It can affect any part of spine but most commonly seen in cervical spine. It usually follows a benign course and resolves with conservative treatment.

CASE REPORT

A 9 year old boy presented with acute onset of neck pain and restricted motion. There was no antecedent trauma or clinical features suggestive of infection. No neurologic deficits were noted. Initial plain radiograph of cervical spine [Figure 1] showed calcification of C4-5 disc. Further MRI of cervical spine [Figure 2 & 3] was performed which revealed calcified C4-5 disc. There was posterior herniation of the calcified disc more on left causing cord compression. No altered signal was seen in cervical cord. Vertebral bodies were normal.

The child was kept on conservative treatment. After one month there was marked resolution of symptoms.

DISCUSSION

Pediatric IV disc calcification is a rare condition. Intervertebral disc calcification was first described by Luschka in 1858.1 Baron in 1942 first described it in children.2

References:
CONCLUSION

IV disc calcification is a rare condition in children. It can cause nonspecific symptoms like neck pain and torticollis. Herniation of calcified disc can cause cord compression. However, most of the cases follow a benign course and respond to conservative treatment.

REFERENCES


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