

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

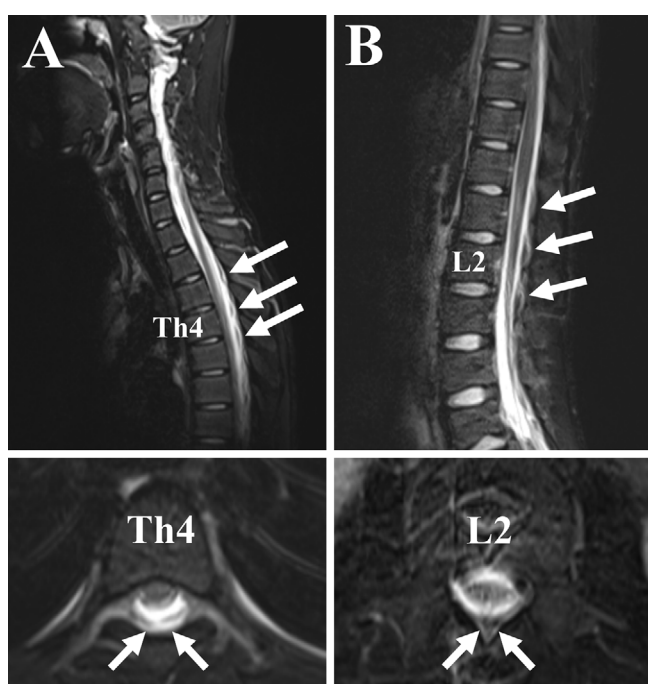
Headache due to Spontaneous Spinal Cerebrospinal Fluid Leaks

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Key words: headache, intracranial hypotension, spinal cerebrospinal fluid leaks

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Picture.

A 15-year-old boy presented to the emergency department with severe headache one day after a football game. He received no severe contact injuries during the game. Despite receiving intravenous hydration shortly after the game, his symptoms subsequently worsened. A physical examination

revealed upper limb numbness and headache that increased in severity upon sitting or resuming standing. Brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was normal, but T2-weighted MRI of the spine revealed cerebrospinal fluid leakage at the thoracic (Picture A, arrow) and lumbar (Picture B, arrow) spine. Spontaneous intracranial hypotension due to spontaneous spinal cerebrospinal fluid leaks was diagnosed. An epidural blood patch resulted in the resolution of the symptoms and the disappearance of the abnormal leaks on follow-up MRI. This treatable disorder has emerged as a significant cause of orthostatic headaches (1) that can compromise the quality of life if left untreated (2). Spinal MRI is a useful screening tool for detecting leaks.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

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