

MRI shows 3 Cervical discs touching spinal cord

Posted by grahammolyneux - 28 Nov 2013 09:36

New to this forum

I had a fall in August 2013 and after 1 month of being in and out of A&E I then had an MRI which showed discs between C3 and C6 have prolapsed and are now touching my spinal cord as well as Narrowing of the nerve roots at C4/C5 causing compression on that nerve, and at C5/C6 which is not yet causing compression.

I am at home unable to function due to this injury.

This disturbs me that I have not immediately been transferred to a specialist in spinal injuries please offer your thoughts

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Re: MRI shows 3 Cervical discs touching spinal cord

Posted by Dr. Corenman - 29 Nov 2013 05:03

You do not discuss your symptoms which really is the link between your MRI and what is causing your pain. See the section "How to describe symptoms" under conditions to fully convey your impairment.

Dr. Corenman

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Re: MRI shows 3 Cervical discs touching spinal cord

Posted by grahammolyneux - 29 Nov 2013 06:28

Originally I had a Pain at the top half of my neck a pain/pressure the size of my fist at the top of my spine.

over night my neck started to tighten up and the pain radiated down in to my shoulders.In the morning I attended our A&E and had X-rays which showed no sign of fracture.

over next few days the pains increased in intensity and was now in a diamond shape from the center of my skull out to the tips of my shoulders then down my back to the bottom of my rib cage.

I had an appointment 16 days after my first A&E visit and at this time on turning my neck in any direction I experienced a Stabbing pain which was unbearable.

Due to an earlier Knee injury I am walking on crutches while awaiting an operation on that and as I walk any distance this causes upper arm pain and pins and needles in my hands the further I walk the worse it gets to a point that I can Not feel the crutches in my hands. When I have walked this kind of distance the pain at the top of my spine turns into a head ache which covers the left side of my head to my left eye. At all times I now have double vision.

the percentage of pain is to the neck 70/30

My concern Is the pressure on the spinal cord at three points !!!

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Re: MRI shows 3 Cervical discs touching spinal cord

Posted by grahamolyneux - 29 Nov 2013 06:32

On the 10th of October I received 7 steroid injections at the trigger points and then the following day a further 7 steroid injections in the remaining trigger points.

This has stopped the acute pain on moving my neck and I was told my neck was stable but not told that I had the disc pressure on my spinal cord.

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Re: MRI shows 3 Cervical discs touching spinal cord

Posted by grahamolyneux - 30 Nov 2013 12:20

This is word for word the MRI report and My symptoms have not changed other than the acute pain being stopped by the steroid injections

MRI Report

There is no evidence of fracture in the cervical spine or upper dorsal spine.

There are degenerative changes with posterior disc protrusions at C 3/4, C4/5 and C 5/6.

The prolapsed discs are slightly touching the spinal cord.

At C 4/5. there is narrowing of the right nerve root exit foramen with compression on the right nerve root at this level.

At C 5/6. th prolapsed disc is also encroaching on the nerve root exit foramina but there is no evidence of compression on the nerve roots.

The cranio cervical junction is normal.

The cord signal is normal.

No intrathecal mass seen.

The upper thoracic vertebral bodies show no evidence of fracture.

In Summary: There is no evidence of fracture in the cervical spine or in the upper dorsal spine but there are degenerative changes and disc protrusions as explained.

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Re: MRI shows 3 Cervical discs touching spinal cord

Posted by Dr. Corenman - 30 Nov 2013 14:45

Touching of the spinal cord without significant compression is generally painless. Compression of the cord is generally also painless but the cause of compression can be painful (degenerative disc disease, herniation or painful facet disorders).

Compression of nerve roots will produce pain that starts in the side of the neck, radiates into the shoulder and may radiate down the arm (depending upon the nerve involved).

Spinal cord compression however can cause myelopathy, a generally painless condition that involves muscle incoordination and loss of fine motor skills. See the section on myelopathy to understand that disorder.

Your MRI reading notes only none to minimal cord compression ("The prolapsed discs are slightly touching the spinal cord.');

You do have compression of the right C5 nerve ('At C 4/5. there is narrowing of the right nerve root exit foramen with compression on the right nerve root at this level"). This can cause pain to radiate into the shoulder and weakness of the shoulder (lifting the arm).

The C5-6 level also have a disc herniation but this does not cause compression of any nerve roots. This can cause central neck pain however.

Dr. Corenman

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