

Lumbar spinal dural arterio-venous fistula presenting with brain stem symptomatology: a case report

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摘要

Abstract

This report is about a rare case of a lumbar spinal dural arteriovenous fistula (DAVF) with distant brainstem symptoms of vertigo and ataxia. Brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) demonstrated a high signal abnormality in the lower pons, medulla, and cervico-medullary junction, presumably related to venous hypertension. Spinal MRI revealed markedly dilated veins along the dorsal aspect of the cord, while spinal angiography confirmed the presence of a lumbar spinal DAVF. Because lumbar DAVF may cause remote brainstem symptoms, spinal DAVF should be considered in the differential diagnosis of high signal MRI abnormalities localized in the brainstem. Properly extending the scanning range is essential in the diagnosis.