



Perineural (Tarlov) Cyst Mimicking Lumbar Radiculopathy

Mahdi Safdarian¹, Sadra Rohani², Maryam Zaribafian¹, Ghazal Haeri¹, Mohammad Rohani¹

1- Department of Neurology, Hazrat Rasool Hospital, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

2- Department of Neurosurgery, Hazrat Rasool Hospital, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Received: 07 December 2016

Revised: 21 December 2016

Accepted: 09 January 2017

ARTICLE INFO

Corresponding author:
Mohammad Rohani

Email:
rohani.m@iums.ac.ir

Keywords

Perineural cysts; Tarlov cysts; Radiculopathy; Imaging

Citation: Safdarian M, Rohani S, Zaribafian M, Haeri G, Rohani M. **Perineural (Tarlov) Cyst Mimicking Lumbar Radiculopathy.** Case Rep Clin Pract 2017; 2(1): 27-8.

Introduction

A 54-years-old lady came to our clinic because of low back pain and radicular pain in her left leg started 2 months before. She had weakness of left quadriceps, and left knee jerk was absent.

Electromyography (EMG) showed active neurogenic changes in left quadriceps muscle. The lumbosacral spine magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a perineural cyst in the left L1-L2 neural foramen (Figure 1).

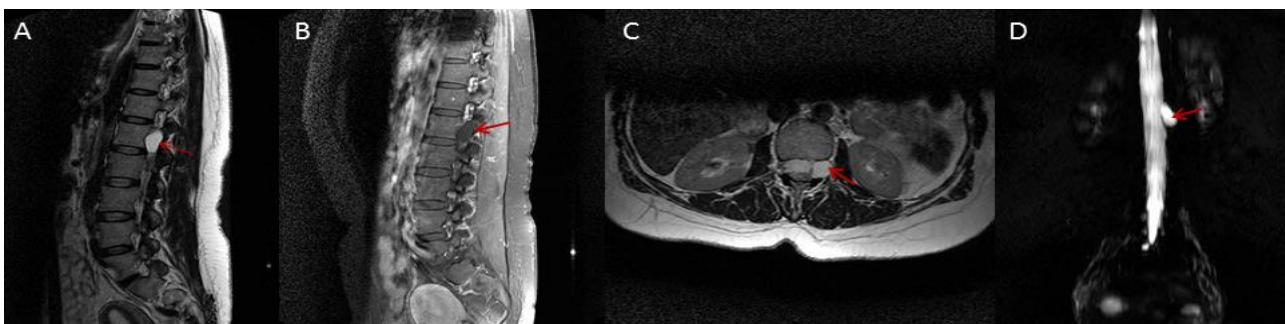


Figure 1. The sagittal T2 and T1 magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with contrast show a perineural cyst (red arrow) in the left L1-L2 neural foramen (A and B). The axial T2 MRI also shows the same cyst (red arrow) (C). The myelogram also confirms perineural cyst on the left side (D, red arrow).

Perineural (Tarlov) cysts are caused by meningeal expansion of posterior nerve roots of spine. They can cause nerve root compression and mimic radiculopathy. They are most common in sacral roots but rarely can be seen in lumbar and other spinal roots (1, 2).

Conflict of Interests

Authors have no conflict of interests.

Acknowledgments

We thank our patient for participating in this study.

References

1. Gunduz OH, Sencan S, Kokar S. A rare cause of lumbar radiculopathy: Perineural cyst. *Pain Med* 2015; 16(1): 199-200.
2. Mahmoudi SF, Layeb M, Layouni S, Jemni S, Gaddour M, Jeddou KB, et al. The Tarlov cyst: A cause of sciatica. *Ann Phys Rehabil Med* 2016; 59S: e95.