

Pancake-like gadolinium enhancement in the spinal cord: an image pattern that suggests spondylotic myelopathy

Realce pelo gadolínio “em panqueca” na medula espinhal: um padrão de imagem sugestivo de mielopatia espondilótica

Gabriela Cezana Contarato¹, Marcos Rosa Júnior²

A 55-year-old man without comorbidities presented with progressive paresthesia and weakness affecting the limbs. Cervical magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) demonstrated prominent spondylosis and myelopathy with pancake-like gadolinium enhancement (Figures 1 and 2).

The pancake-like sign is related to a focal disruption of the blood-brain barrier and defined by a circumferential

enhancement sparing spinal cord gray matter on axial images, located beneath the site of maximum stenosis, with a transverse band appearance on sagittal images, extending less than one vertebral segment. The recognition of these radiological findings contribute to the avoidance of unnecessary interventions^{1,2,3}.

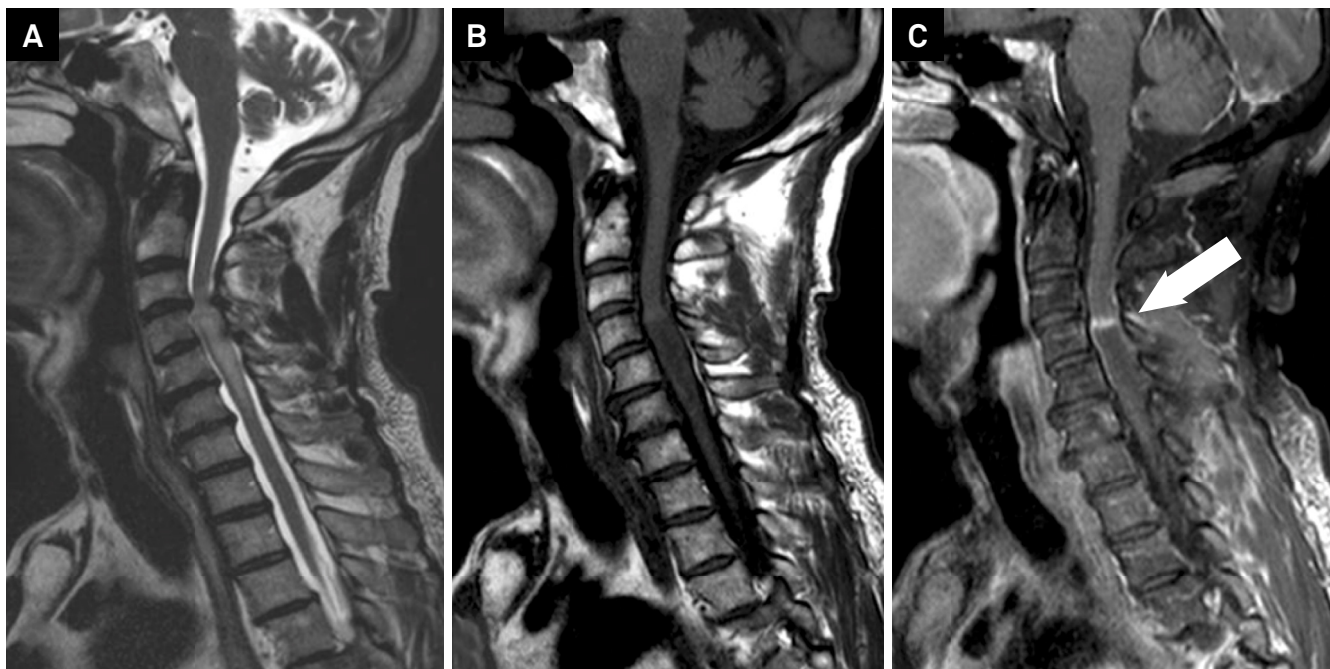


Figure 1. Sagittal MRI reveals prominent cervical spondylosis associated with a fusiform longitudinally-extensive hyperintensity on T2-weighted image, below compression, due to spinal vasogenic edema (A), hypointensity on T1-weighted image (B), with a transverse pancake-like band of enhancement at the spinal cord just below the site of maximal stenosis (C3-C4) on T1-weighted post-gadolinium image (C).

¹Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Vitória ES, Brasil;

²Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Departamento de Neurorradiologia, Vitória ES, Brasil.

Correspondence: Marcos Rosa Júnior; Avenida Marechal Campos, 1468; Maruípe, 29043-900 Vitória ES, Brasil; E-mail: marcosrosajr@hotmail.com

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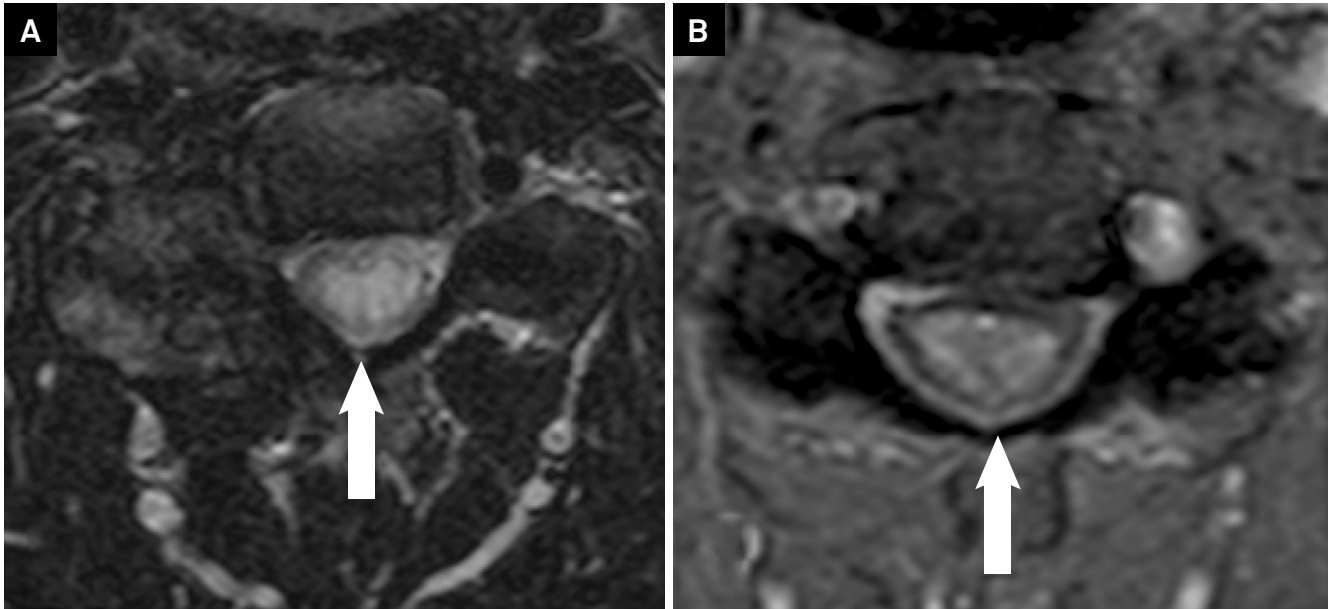


Figure 2. The pancake-like sign on axial T2-weighted image (A) and axial T1-weighted post-gadolinium (B), showing a circumferential enhancement sparing spinal cord gray matter (B).

References

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