

MRI STUDY OF A PATIENT WHO WAS SURGICALLY FUSED AT L4-5-S1 FOR LOW BACK AND LOWER EXTREMITY PAIN DUE TO DEGENERATIVE SPONDYLOLISTHESIS OF BOTH L4 AND L5 SEGMENTS

With progressive low back and lower extremity pain following two such surgical fusions, the patient sought care at our clinic.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Please note the surgical bolt and plate fusions at L4 through S1 in Figure 1.

Figure 2 shows the MRI showing the result in spinal stenosis at the L2-L3 level due to ligamentum flavum hypertrophy and posterior disc protrusion.

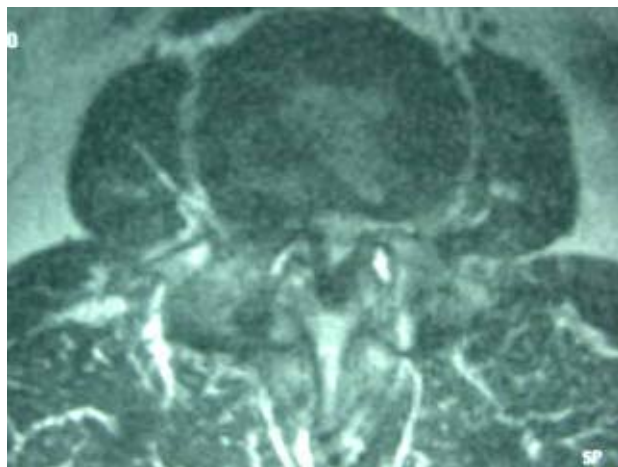


Figure 3

Figure 3 is the axial image at the L2-L3 level showing the bilateral osseoligamentous and spinal canal stenosis due to facet arthrosis and ligamentum flavum hypertrophy.

This can be a good example of hypermobility above the levels of spinal fusion and the resultant degenerative changes that follow when a triple joint complex is asked to perform far more motion than it was ever designed to provide.

This patient will now be treated with flexion distraction long y-axis decompression at the L2-L3 level.

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