DOI: 10.1590/0004-282X20140104

Subacute compressive myelopathy secondary to extramedullary hematopoiesis

Mielopatia subaguda compressiva secundária a hematopoiese extramedular

Paulo Victor Sgobbi de Souza, Wladimir Bocca Vieira de Rezende Pinto, José Luiz Pedroso, Orlando Graziani Povoas Barsottini

A 25-year-old man presented with subacute onset paraparesis with sphincter disturbance. His past medical history unveiled β-thalassemia intermedia (compound heterozygote IVS 1-5) and hereditary persistence of fetal hemoglobin type 2. His neurological examination disclosed a complete spinal cord syndrome without clear thoracic sensory level. Spinal cord imaging showed severe thoracic spinal stenosis secondary to paraspinal extramedullary hematopoiesis (Figure). Spinal cord compression is a leading cause of myelopathy in patients with multiple progressive paravertebral masses in chronic extramedullary hematopoiesis[1], described in hereditary hemoglobinopathies, lymphoproliferative disorders, myelofibrosis and polycythemia vera[2].

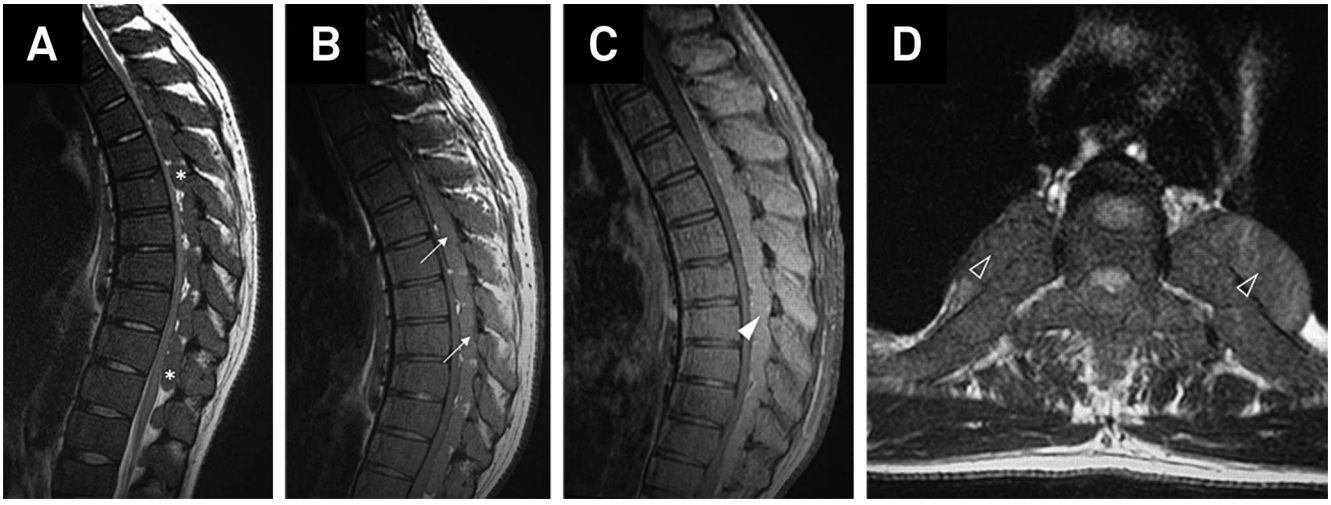

Figure. Non-contrast-enhanced sagittal MRI of the spine at thoracic level disclosing multiple solid masses in the paravertebral spine with intermediate signal on T2-weighted (A; asterisks) and on T1-weighted images (B; arrows). Contrast-enhanced T1-weighted sagittal MRI of the spine showing enhancement of the solid masses described in A and B (C; filled arrowhead). Axial T2-weighted MRI of the spine evinced severe thoracic spinal stenosis and multiple paravertebral masses (D; non-filled arrowhead).

References

1. Haidar R, Mhaidli H, Taher AT. Paraspinal extramedullary hematopoiesis in patients with thalassemia intermedia. Eur Spine J 2010;19:871-878.

2. Haidar R, Mhaidli H, Musallam KM, Taher AT. The spine in beta-thalassemia syndromes. Spine 2012;37:334-339.

Departamento de Neurologia, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Sao Paulo SP, Brazil.
Correspondence: Wladimir Bocca Vieira de Rezende Pinto; Rua Botucatu, 740; 04023-900 São Paulo SP, Brasil; E-mail: wladimirbvrpinto@gmail.com
Conflict of interest: There is no conflict of interest to declare.
Received 12 April 2014; Received in final form 01 May 2014; Accepted 16 June 2014.