



REMARKS

1 General

- 1.1 Cord compression is to be suspected when there is presence of motor deficit or sensory disturbance. Though pain is a common symptom, it is not an essential feature of cord compression.^{5,6}
- 1.2 Do not perform plain radiographs of the spine either to make or to exclude the diagnosis of spinal metastases or metastatic spinal cord compression (MSCC).^{7,8}
- 1.3 MRI of the spine should be performed in all patients with suspected MSCC, unless contraindicated.^{7,8}
- 1.4 MRI of the whole spine in patients with suspected MSCC should include sagittal T1, and / or short T1 inversion recovery (STIR) and sagittal T2 weighted sequences. Perform supplementary axial imaging through any significant abnormality noted on the sagittal scan.^{7,9}
- 1.5 Consider targeted CT scan with 3-plane reformats to assess spinal stability and plan vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty or spinal surgery in patients with MSCC.^{8,9}

REFERENCES

1. The Royal College of Radiologists. Making the best use of a department of clinical radiology. 4th ed. London: Royal College of Radiologists; 1998. p. 34.
2. Royal Australasian College of Radiologists. Imaging guidelines. 3rd ed. Melbourne: Royal Australasian College of Radiologists; 1997. p. 28-29.
3. Carmody RF, Yang PJ, Seelly GW, Seeger JF, Unger EC, Johnson JE. Spinal cord compression due to metastatic disease: diagnosis with MR imaging vs myelography. *Radiology* 1989; 173: 225-229.
4. Jordon JE, Donaldson SS, Enzmann DR. Cost effectiveness and outcome assessment of magnetic resonance imaging in diagnosing cord compression. *Cancer* 1995; 75: 2579-2586.
5. Johnstone RA. The management of acute spinal cord compression. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1993; 56: 1046-1054.
6. Patten J. Neurological differential diagnosis. 2nd ed. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1995. p. 213-225.
7. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2008) Metastatic spinal cord compression in adults: risk assessment, diagnosis and management. NICE guideline (CG75).
8. Boleti E, Grant I, Collins E, How S. Metastatic spinal cord compression in London cancer. Management and service guidelines. V1.1 Final. 2013 December.
9. Department of Health, Government of Western Australia. Diagnostic Imaging Pathways – Spinal Cord Compression (Suspected). Perth: Department of Health, Government of Western Australia; 2014 June.