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Post-Surgical Lumbar Pseudomeningocele One Year After Lumbar Disc Hernia Surgery Case Report and Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

Pseudomeningocele is a rare complication of spine Surgery, and it is the collection of cerebrospinal fluid in paraspinal tissues. It is usually occult in presentation, and patients do not have any symptoms ascribable to it. We came across one symptomatic patient with post laminectomy pseudomeningocele in past one year at our institution.

Case report: One year after surgery for a Lumbar disc hernia L5-S1 the patient consults again for low back pain and a lumbar subcutaneous mass. Lumbar MRI confirms the diagnosis of pseudo-meningocele, showing fluid formation of the soft parts, postero-spinal on the path of the first approach, thin-walled, without signs of superinfection.

Conclusion: Reappearance of neurological symptoms in a patient undergoing spine surgery previously needs careful evaluation. Rarely the symptoms of failed back surgery are seen to be arising due to a pseudomeningocele.

Keywords: Pseudo-meningocele, Lumbar disc hernia surgery

INTRODUCTION

Post-surgical meningocele is an early complication, represented by a fluid collection of the paraspinal soft tissues, its frequency is estimated at 1 - 13%, it is twice as frequent in herniated disc revisions [1-6].

CASE REPORT

This is a 52-year-old patient with hyperalgesic right S1 low back sciatica. MRI of the lumbosacral spine revealed a right L5 S1 lumbar disc herniation **(Figure 1)**. The patient was operated. The operative suites are simple.

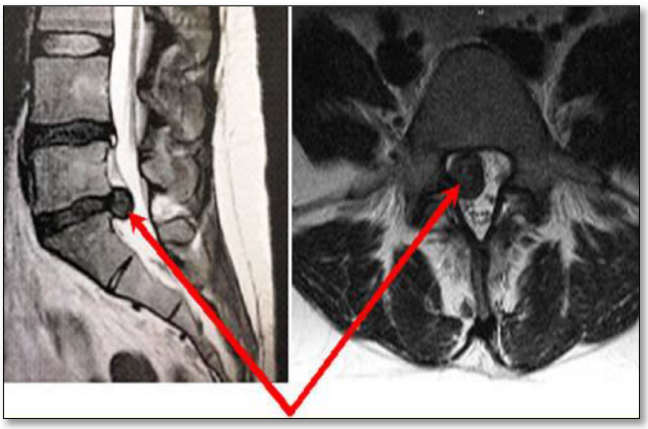

Figure 1. Lumbar MRI: herniated disc L5 S1 right.

One year, after the surgical treatment, the patient consults again for low back pain and a lumbar subcutaneous mass. Lumbar MRI confirms the diagnosis of pseudo-meningocele, showing fluid formation of the soft parts, postero-spinal on the path of the first approach, thin-walled, without signs of superinfection **(Figure 2)**.

The patient benefited from a surgical revision, with repair of the dural breach, the evolution is favorable.

DISCUSSION

Post-surgical pseodomeningocele is an immediate post-operative complication, it is around 13% after herniated disc surgery [2] and 23% after surgery for ductal stenosis [6]. It is characterized:

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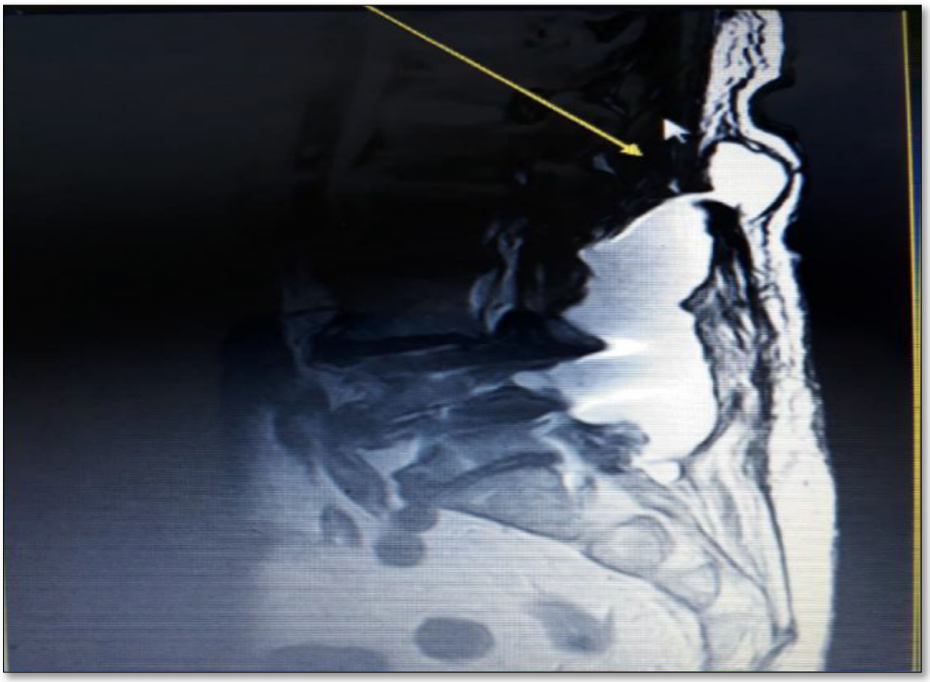

Figure 2. Pseudo meningocele post HDL L5 S1 surgery.

- clinically, by postural headaches, simple low back pain, a palpable subcutaneous mass, an intracerebral hypotension syndrome. It can be asymptomatic in 60% of cases [3].
- radiologically, the site of communication with the dural sac, the contrast enhancement of the walls, will be specified; if intense and thick we will discuss a superinfection or an abscess of the soft parts, the compressive character on the dural sac, the subcutaneous character; risk of skin fistula, the presence of a root trapped within the collection [4].

CONCLUSION

The occurrence of a post-surgical lumbar meningocele does not alter the functional result at a distance. The out come is favorable in the majority of cases provided that the diagnosis and treatment are rapid.

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