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Epidural Lipomatosis

Epidural lipomatosis is a rare disorder in which an abnormal amount of fat is deposited on or outside the lining of the spine. It may press on the spinal cord and nerves.

Symptoms

Symptoms vary, but back pain and weakness are the most common ones. Other possible signs may be a loss of sensation or reflexes that are too slow or too fast.

Causes and Risk Factors

Epidural lipomatosis affects men more than women. Patients who have used steroids for many years as treatments for conditions like asthma are more likely to get this condition. Being overweight may contribute to it.

Diagnosis

A doctor will use computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to confirm the fat deposits.

Treatments

Depending on the symptoms, surgery may be needed.

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