

:  
 가 .  
 :  
 가 120 60 .  
 가  
 : 60 가 가 48 가 12  
 . 가 120 110  
 ; 37(37/120, 30.8%), 44(44/120, 36.7 %),  
 29(29/120, 24.2%). 10 (10/120,  
 8.3%). (65/120), (51/120),  
 (44/120), (11/120)  
 가 (10/120) 가 .  
 가 (p>0.05).  
 :  
 가가 가 .  
 가 ,  
 .  
 (spondylolytic spondy-  
 lolisthesis) 가 (pars interarticularis) MRI가 가 가  
 가  
 (microtrauma) 가가 가 .  
 (1).  
 (intermittent claudication) MRI  
 (radiculopathy) 가  
 .  
 (2,3), (3,4).  
 MRI 가 가  
 가

1  
 2  
 3

60  
( : =27:33, 18- 64  
). MRI 1.0 T Magnetom 42 SP(Siemens,  
Ehrlangen, Germany) flat surface coil  
spin echo pulse se-  
quence (T1WI: TR 500msec, TE 15msec / T2WI: TR  
3000msec, TE 80msec) gradient echo  
pulse sequence (TR 51msec, TE 12msec, flip angle 50.)  
4 mm  
matrix size 128×256 MRI  
가  
가 48

grade

60

120

Meyerding 's

가 12

(mild),  
(moderate),  
(severe)



A



B



C



D

Fig. 1. Various patterns of intervertebral foramen stenosis in spondylolytic spondylolisthesis.

A. Normal intervertebral foramen shows inverted tear drop shape containing nerve root and vessels in superior compartment of foramen. Normally nerve root is completely surrounded by fat.

B. Stenosis of inferior compartment of intervertebral foramen. Because nerve root passes superior compartment of intervertebral foramen at lumbar area, stenosis of inferior compartment does not affect nerve root (arrow).

C. Intervertebral foramen stenosis involving superior compartment of foramen (moderate degree of foraminal stenosis). Fat of intervertebral foramen is partly preserved (arrow).

D. Severe stenosis of intervertebral foramen. Fat is completely obliterated at intervertebral foramen.

가  
가 (fibrocartilaginous callus)  
가 10  
(Fig. 2).  
가 30  
(mild), (moderate), (severe)  
가  
가 T2  
가 가  
가  
(Fig. 3). 가 27 ,  
가 24 , 가 9 ,  
5 가 (p>0.05) (Table 1).  
42 , 4 가 18 .  
Meyerding's grade , grade I 46 , grade II  
가 9 , grade III 가 5 . Grade IV  
120 10 (8.3%)  
(30.8%), 44 (36.7%), 29  
(24.2%) (Fig. 1).  
65 (54: , 11:  
(pedicle) 가 51 ,  
11 ,  
(isthmus, pars interarticularis) 가

Table 1 Diminution of Disk Height : Relationship with Intervertebral Foramen Stenosis.

Degree of intervertebral foramen stenosis	Diminution of Disk Height <sup>§</sup>		
	Mild (n= 27)	Moderate (n= 24)	Severe (n= 9)
Mild* (n= 47)	22	21	4
Moderate (n= 44)	24	16	4
Severe (n= 29)	8	11	10

\* Including cases showing stenotic change only at inferior portion of intervertebral foramen.

§ Representing number of patients. All other numericals represent number of intervertebral foramen.

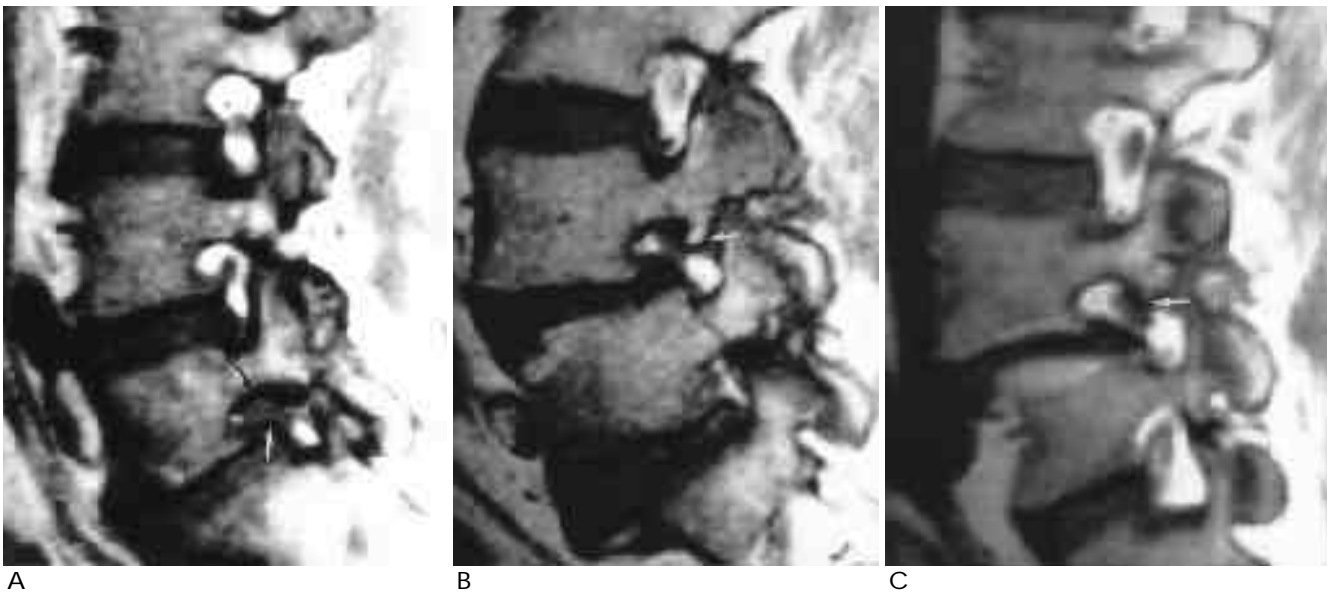


Fig. 2. Causes of nerve root compression in spondylolytic spondylolisthesis.

A. Nerve root is compressed by descent of pedicle (arrow) and posterosuperior bulging of intervertebral disk (white arrow).

B. Bony spur formed at spondylolytic site (white arrow) causes nerve root compression.

C. Bony segment of pars interarticularis above spondylolytic site (white arrow) compresses nerve root.



- 가 가
- 가 .
- 가 , ,
- 가
- MR 가
- 가
- Meyerding's grade I
- 가
- CT (pseudobulging), Prere (3) MRI 가 가
- (simple disk deformity), (disk herniation), (retrosomatic disk narrowing) 가
- 가
- Prere (herniation) 3D
- (bulging)가
- 가
- 가
- 가
- (pars interarticularis) , 가
- Edelson (11) 1986 가
- MRI
- 가
- 가 가
- 가
- 3D
- 가
- 가
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## MR Imaging of Spondylolytic Spondylolisthesis : Changes of Intervertebral Foramen and Nerve Root Compression<sup>1</sup>

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**Purpose :** To evaluate the factors affecting intervertebral foramen stenosis and nerve root compression in spondylolytic spondylolisthesis.

**Materials and Methods :** We investigated 120 intervertebral foramina of 60 patients with spondylolytic spondylolisthesis who had undergone lumbar MRI. A retrospective review of their MR images revealed the degree of intervertebral foramen stenosis and causes of nerve root compression. The relationship between disk height diminution following spondylolysis and degree of intervertebral foramen stenosis was also evaluated.

**Results :** Forty eight of 60 patients showed a similar degree of intervertebral foramen stenosis, and in 12 patients the degree of stenosis was different. In 110 intervertebral foramina, stenosis of both the superior and inferior compartments of intervertebral foramina was demonstrated. In 37 of 120 cases (30.8 %), stenosis was mild; in 44 of 120 (36.7 %) it was moderate, and in 29 of 120 (24.2 %) it was severe. Stenosis of the inferior compartment was demonstrated in ten of 120 intervertebral foramina (8.3 %). Nerve root compression was caused by posterior bulging of the intervertebral disk (65/120), descent of the pedicle (51/120), an isthmic bony segment above the site of spondylolysis (44/120), a bony spur formed at a spondylolytic site (11/120), and fibrocartilaginous callus at a spondylolytic site (5/48). In all cases there was degenerative change of the intervertebral disk at the affected level. There was no relationship between degree of disk height diminution and degree of intervertebral foramen stenosis ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion :** The degree of intervertebral foramen stenosis and causes of nerve root compression in spondylolytic spondylolisthesis are variable, and MRI demonstrates them precisely. There was no positive relationship between degree of nerve root compression at an intervertebral foramen and degree of spondylolysis and degeneration of an intervertebral foramen. The degree of nerve root compression is believed to be another criterion for describing spondylolytic spondylolisthesis.

**Index words :** Spine, MR  
Spondylolysis

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