

1

2

3

MR  
MR 25  
MR  
MR  
125 104 (83%)  
52 28 (54%) MR  
MR 37 (71%)  
MR 80%, 91%  
12 1  
1 10 (83%)

MR  
C5 T1

가 가  
1970  
가  
(MR)  
(4-11).  
(root avulsion) MR  
(1-3). (pseudomeningocele)  
(4,5,7,8,10,11), 가  
(pregan- C5, 6 MR (9),  
glionic) (postganglionic) 가 (6). MR  
가 ( )  
( )  
가  
(spinal accessory nerve),  
(intercostal nerve),  
(neurotization)  
(neurolysis), (nerve graft)  
(1-3).  
가

1998 8 1999 3  
MR 24  
1 16 58  
29 가 19 , 가 4 ,  
가 2 MR 3  
293 52  
MR 1.0T Horizon LX(GE Medical System, Milwaukee WI,  
U.S.A) surface coil

1998 5 11 1999 7 12

T1 (TR/TE = 500-700 /20-25msec), T2(3300-4300/90-120), T2\* (600-800/20, flip angle 20°), 12-16cm, (matrix number) 256 × 192, 4mm, 2 mm C3 T1/2 (neural foramen) Rectangular surface coil

MR

(Inadequate)

T1, T2, T2  
× 224, 5mm, 0.5mm 20-22cm, 256  
MR

Table 2. Surgical and MR Correlation of Preganglionic Injury.

Surgical Findings	MR findings		
	Avulsion or pseudomeningocele	Inadequate	Normal
Avulsion	37	6	9
Normal	5	12	56

Table 1. Study Data for 25 Patients with Traumatic Brachial Plexus Injury

Case no./ Age/sex	Interval between MRI and Injury(wk)	MRI finding						Injury levels based on Surgery
		Preganglionic					Postganglionic	
		C5	C6	C7	C8	T1		
1/16/M	14	I	I	P	P	I	(-)	Avulsion, C7-T1
2/17/M	282			A+ P	A+ P	A+ P	(-)	Avulsion, C7-T1
3/21/M	21		A	A+ P		P	(-)	Avulsion, C7&8
4/44/M	31		A	A	A	I	(-)	Avulsion, C6-8
5/36/M	36	I	A	A+ P	A+ P	A+ P	(-)	Avulsion, C6-T1
6/22/M	12	I			A+ P	A+ P	(-)	Avulsion, C6-T1
7/18/M	293	I	P	P	I	I	(-)	Avulsion, C5&6
8/24/M	20	A	A	A+ P	A+ P		(-)	Avulsion, C5-T1
9/22/M	21		A+ P	P	I	I	(-)	Avulsion, C5&6
10/28/M	158			A+ P	A+ P	I	(-)	Avulsion, C7-T1
11/29/M	41		P	P	P	P	(-)	Avulsion, C5-7
12/21/M	69	A	I	A+ P	A+ P	P	(-)	Avulsion, C5-T1
13/25/M	6	A+ P	A+ P	A+ P	P		(-)	Avulsion, C5-8
14/45/M	38			A+ P	A+ P	P	Fibrosis of root, trunk	Avulsion, C5-T1 with root and trunk(fibrosis)
15/25/M	3				P		Diffuse BP Injury	Avulsion at C6-T1 with MCN, median N. injury
16/36/M	58		(-)				(-)	Ulnar, radial, median N.
17/24/M	27	I	(-)	I	I		(-)	MCN
18/23/M	19		(-)				Infraclavicular BP hematoma	Infraclavicular BP
19/41/M	26	(-)					(-)	MCN, radial nerve
20/17/M	37	(-)					(-)	MCN
21/16/M	31	(-)					Trunk neuroma	Upper trunk(neuroma)
22/32/F	23	I	I	I	I	I	(-)	Partial tear, infraclavicular BP
23/58/M	13	(-)					(-)	High radial nerve
24/42/M	27	(-)					(-)	Suprascapular nerve
25/47/M	6	(-)					(-)	MCN, median nerve

Note: A= Nerve root avulsion, P= Pseudomeningocele, I= Inadequate  
N= Nerve, BP= Brachial plexus, MCN= Musculocutaneous nerve

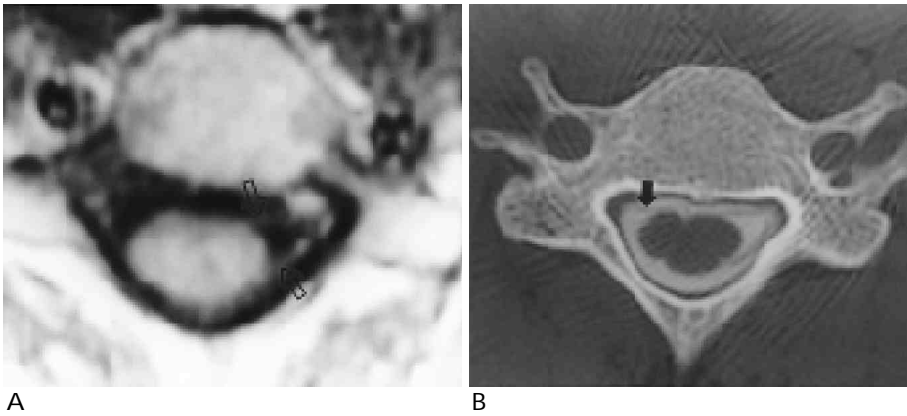


Fig. 1. Avulsion of right C6 nerve root without pseudomeningocele in 24-year-old man.

A. Axial T1-weighted image at level of C5 vertebral body shows absence of right C6 nerve roots. Note normal left C6 roots (open arrows).

B. CT myelogram at the same level of A. Note normal left roots and right scar tissue (arrow).

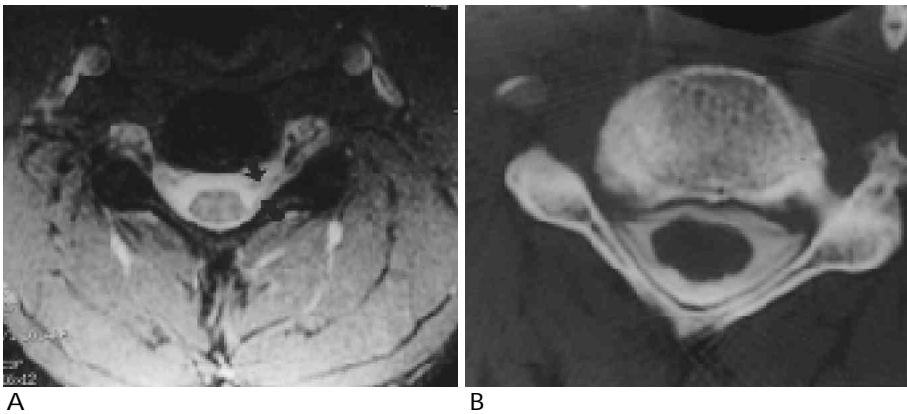


Fig. 2. Normal right C6 roots interpreted as nerve root avulsion on MR in 21-year-old man.

A. Axial GRE T2\*-weighted image at level of C5-6 neural foramina shows normal left C6 roots exiting thecal sac (arrows). Right C6 roots are not seen.

B. CT myelogram at the same level of A. Note normal right C6 roots.

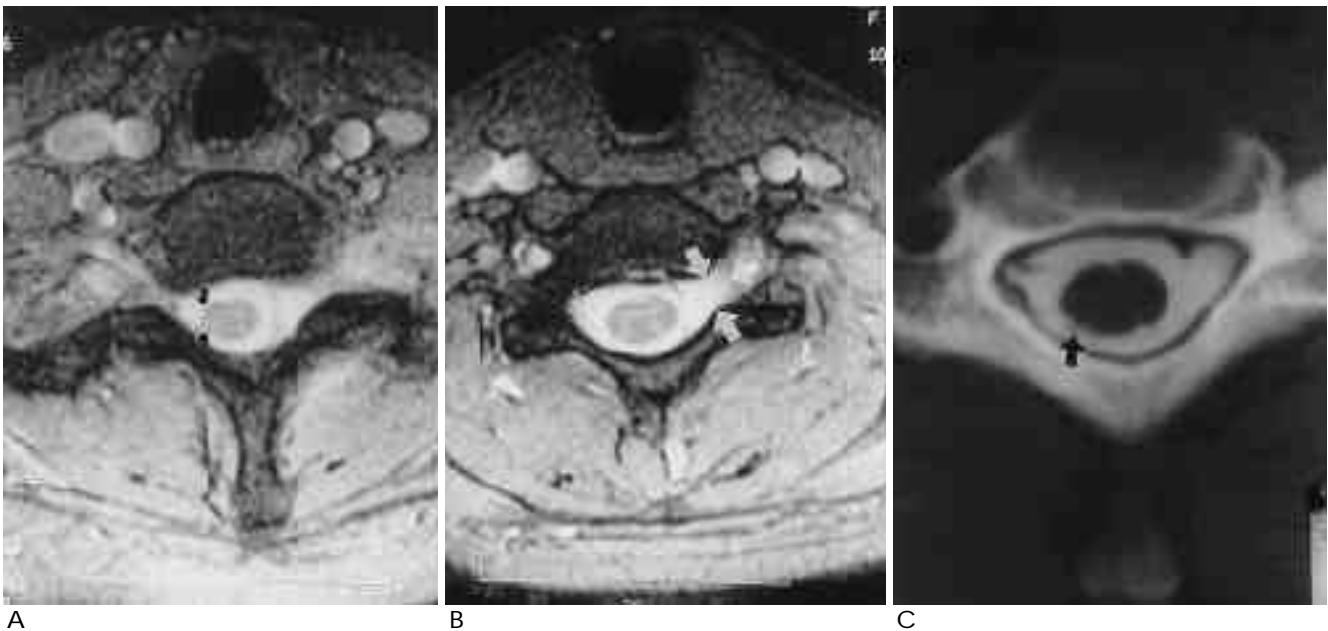


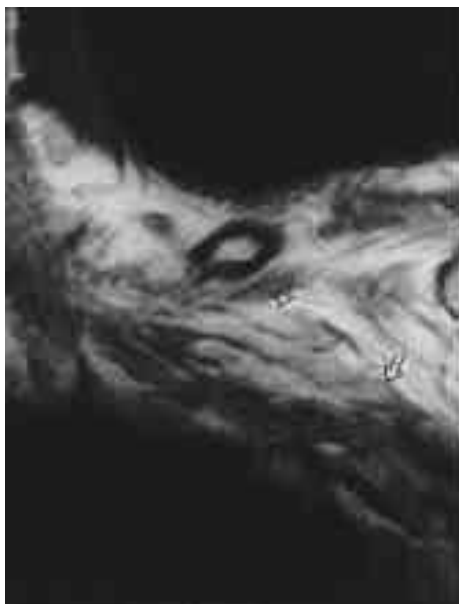
Fig. 3. Left C7 nerve root avulsion and associated pseudomeningocele in 17-year-old man.

A. Axial GRE T2\*-weighted image at level of C6 vertebral body shows normal right C7 roots exiting and entering cervical cord (arrows). Note that left C7 nerve roots are not seen.

B. Axial GRE T2\*-weighted image at level of C6-7 neural foramina shows normal right C7 roots exiting thecal sac (open arrows). No left C7 nerve roots are seen. Note left pseudomeningocele (arrows).

C. CT myelogram at the same level of B. No left C7 nerve roots are seen. Note normal right C7 nerve roots. Right dorsal rami of C8 exiting cervical cord is seen (arrow).

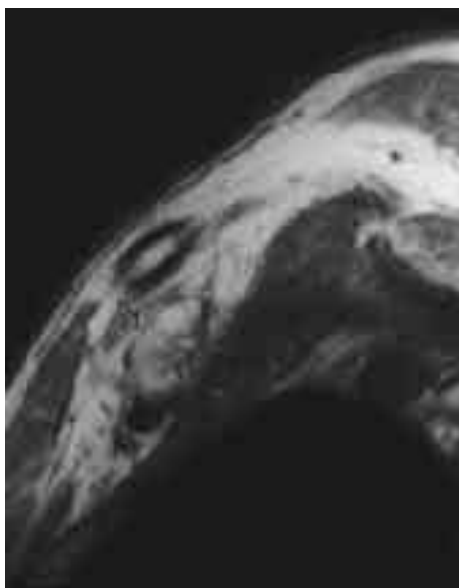
:  
 . 21 (17 %) MR  
 (retention)가  
 MR (root),  
 (trunk), (division), (cord)가  
 52 가  
 MR (Fig. 1)  
 28 (54 %) 21 가 7  
 가 MR  
 CT MR (CT myelography)  
 1 (Fig. 2)  
 가 42  
 (Fig. 3), 37 (88 %)  
 5 MR  
 가  
 125 MR Table 1  
 104 (83 %) MR  
 80%, 91%, 87% (Table 2).



A



B



C



D

Fig. 4. Surgically proven normal left postganglionic brachial plexus interpreted as diffuse brachial plexus injury.

Coronal(A) and sagittal(C) T2-weighted images show thickened nerve bundles and high signal intensity at left postganglionic brachial plexus(open arrows). Compare normal right brachial plexus on coronal and sagittal (B,D) T2-weighted image(arrows).

12 MR

1 MR

10 (83%)

MR

10

7

3

1 (Fig. 4)

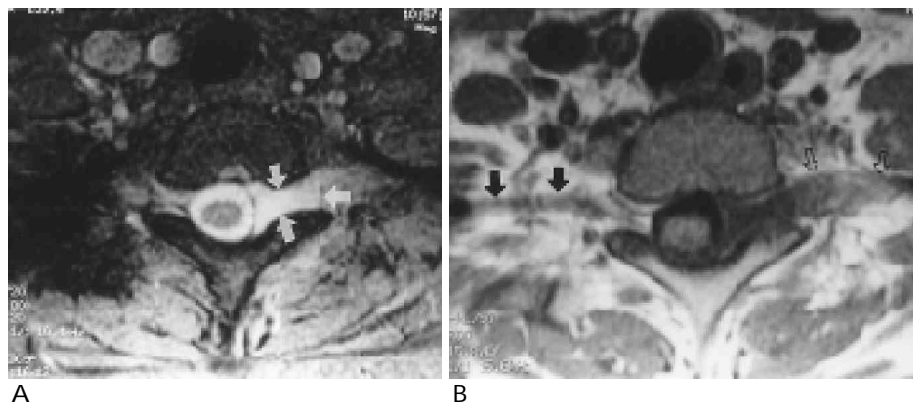


Fig. 5. Left T1 postganglionic root fibrosis and associated pseudomeningocele in 45-year-old man.

A. Axial GRE T2\*-weighted image shows pseudomeningocele(arrows).  
B. Axial T1-weighted image shows thickening of left T1 root(open arrows). Note normal right root(arrows).

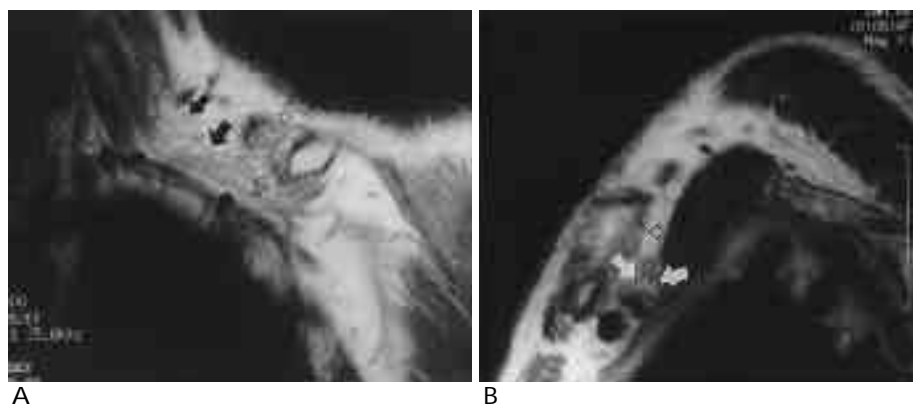


Fig. 6. Left clavicular fracture with infraclavicular brachial plexus contusion in 23-year-old man.

A. Coronal T2-weighted image shows infraclavicular hematoma(open arrows) and swelling and hyperintensity of brachial plexus(arrows).  
B. Sagittal T2-weighted image shows hematoma(open arrows) and contused brachial plexus(arrows).

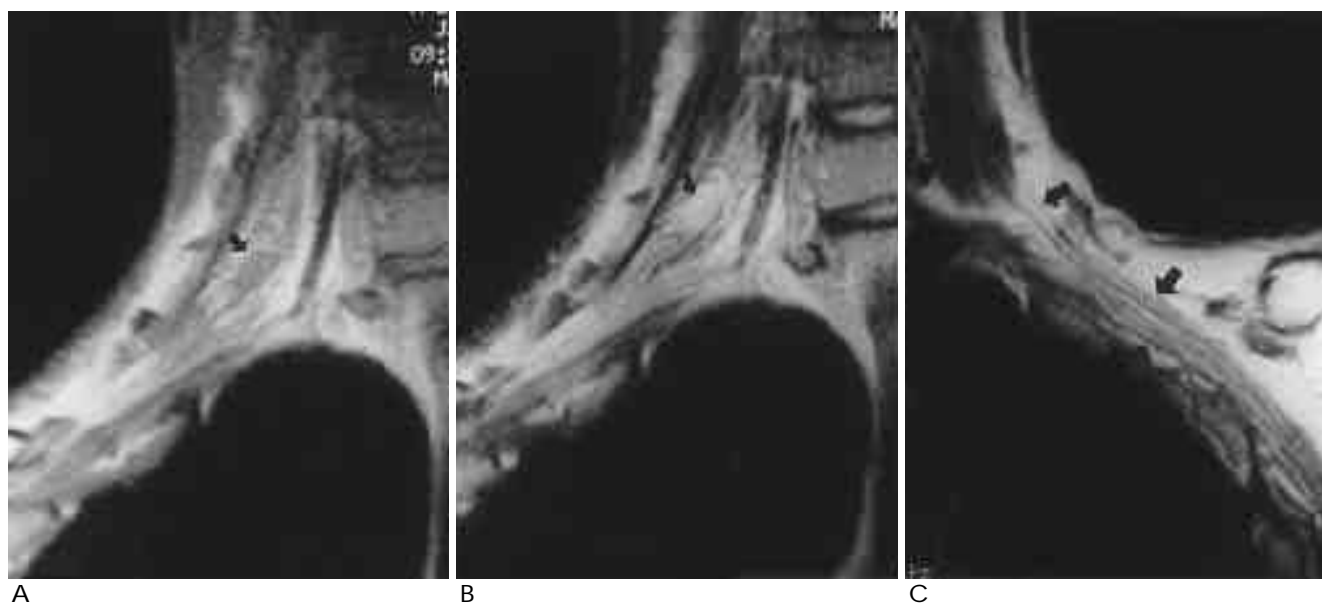


Fig. 7. Right trunk posttraumatic neuroma in 16-year-old man.

Coronal T1 (A) and T2(B) weighted image show neuroma(arrows) that involves trunk. Note thickened appearance of this structure.

C. Same patient of normal left brachial plexus(arrows).

(Fig. 5), (Fig. 6), (10), 21  
 (Fig. 7) MR 80%, 91%, 87%  
 88%, 85%  
 C5 T1 (ven-  
 tral rami) (anterior scalene muscle) (middle scalene  
 muscle) (C5- (12,13).  
 6) (C7) (C8-T1) 1 3 MR  
 1 (83%).  
 (axilla) 가  
 Sunderland(17) 1 2  
 가  
 가  
 (16), (14,15). 가 3 MR  
 가 가 MR  
 가 (14). 20-43% (9,14,15),  
 52 7 (19%)  
 MR  
 MR (10). MR  
 가 가  
 (7,8,10,11). Ochi (9) MR 가  
 40 ° 가 가 C5, 6  
 (73-82%), (50-72%) MR 가  
 가 MR  
 가 (9), 가 MR  
 C5 T1 가 C3  
 T1/2  
 가 ( =54%, =83%).  
 CT 95%, 98% (14).  
 CT MR  
 MR 가

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## MR Imaging of Traumatic Brachial Plexus Injury<sup>1</sup>

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**Purpose :** The aim of our study was to evaluate the usefulness of MR imaging in cases of traumatic brachial plexus injury.

**Materials and Methods :** We evaluated 25 patients with traumatic brachial plexus injury as seen on MR images prior to surgical exploration and repair. MR images were retrospectively evaluated for nerve root avulsion and pseudomeningocele, and postganglionic lesions. Results were correlated with final diagnosis after surgical exploration.

**Results :** One hundred and four of 125 root levels (83%) were adequately imaged. Nerve root avulsion was shown at 28 levels (54%). Avulsion with or without pseudomeningocele was seen at 37 levels (71%) (80% sensitivity, 91% specificity). The presence of ten of 12 postganglionic lesions (83%) was revealed by MR imaging.

**Conclusion :** MR imaging is valuable for revealing preganglionic nerve root avulsion in patients with traumatic brachial plexus injury or postganglionic lesions.

**Index words :** Brachial plexus, MR

Nerves, roots

Nerves, injuries

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