

가

:

1

(MR) , , 가 .
 : MR 가 25 MR
 가 41 가 17 ,
 가 8 . 1.5T MR
 T2 (3000/120) , ,
 4 (0, normal; 1, mild; 2, moderate; 3, marked)
 5 (-2, ; -1, ; 0,
 ; 1, 가; 2, 가) . , ,
 : 160.5 ± 5.9 (), 185.4 ± 8.5 ()
), 143.7 ± 6.7 ()
 0.55 , 0.16 , 0.7 ,
 -0.39 , 0.31 . 24.2%가 ,
 30.3% 가 . 4.5% 가 3.6%가
 , 6.6% 19.1%가 .
 : MR , 가 , .

(lordotic angle) 가
 (annulus fibrosus)
 (spinal stenosis) 가
 MR
 (neu-
 tral) (flexion) (extension) 가
 가 (functional) , MR
 (kinematic) 가 .
 (MR) 가
 (1-3).

: 가

가 17, 8
가 1 (19) 24
가 30 MR 1.5T Gyroscan ACS-NT (Philips Medical Systems, Eindhoven, Netherlands) (surface coil)

T2 (TSE, TR/TE=3000/120) 가가

가
FOV = 250 mm, thickness = 4 mm, matrix = 226/256, ETL = 11, NSA = 4, = 4 12

matrix = 204/256, NSA = 2, = 1 54
(prescan) 가 MR (FOV) 가

(0: , 1: , 2: , 3: 4)

5 (-2: , -1: , 0: , 1: 가, 2: 가)

(4, 5).

(endplate)

(6).

(workstation) MR 4

(Fig. 1).

2
paired t - test p 0.05

41 (19 - 52)
, 185.4 ± 8.5. (), 143.7 ± 6.7. ()
24.9, 16.8. 25
150 96 (64%),
32 (21.3%), 15 (10%),
7 (4.7%) C5 - 6
C6 - 7 가 (38 , 25.3%)
(Table 1).

0.55 , 0.16 , 0.7
C6 - 7 가 1.40 가
0.44 가 1.48 가

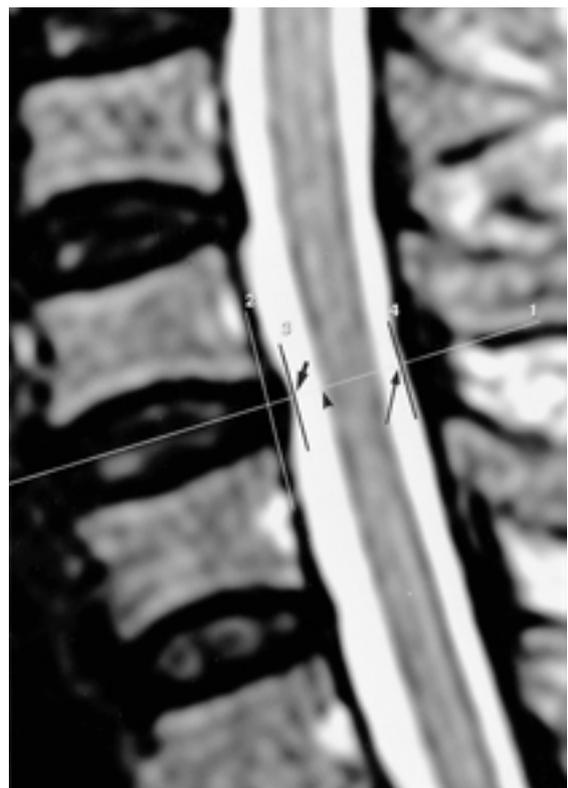


Fig. 1. Methods of the measurements of the bulging thickness(line 2 to short arrow), AP diameter of spinal canal(short arrow to long arrow), and distance between the margins of disk and spinal cord(short arrow to arrowhead) at each level of the disk on the screen of the workstation. The image was magnified four times. Line 1, a line parallel to adjacent endplates; Line 2, a line connecting the edges of the adjacent apophyseal rings; Line 3, a tangential line to the most posterior annular margin; Line 4, posterior epidural margin.

C5 - 6(0.88) C6 - 7(0.96) ,
 가 가 C4 - 5(0.28 가)
 (Table 2) (Fig. 2, 3).
 - 0.39 ,
 0.31 .
 가 가 C5 - 6(-
 0.96) C6 - 7(-0.96) ,
 가 가 C5 - 6(0.68) (Table 3).
 (Table 2) C5 - 6 1.03 ± 0.52
 mm, C6 - 7 1.22 ± 0.48 mm 가 .
 가 ,

Table 1. Distribution of Cervical Bulging Disks (n = 150)

Disks	Normal	Mild	Moderate	Marked
C2 - 3	25	0	0	0
C3 - 4	21	3	0	1
C4 - 5	15	9	1	0
C5 - 6	6	12	5	2
C6 - 7	6	7	8	4
C7 - T1	23	1	1	0
Total (100%)	96 (64%)	32 (21.3%)	15 (10%)	7 (4.7%)

Table 2. Average Grades of Disk Bulging on Independent Visual Inspection

Disks	Neutral	Flexion	Extension
C2 - 3	0	0	0.12
C3 - 4	0.24	0.12	0.44
C4 - 5	0.44	0.20	0.72
C5 - 6	1.12	0.24	1.32
C6 - 7	1.40	0.44	1.48
C7 - T1	0.12	0	0.12
Average	0.55	0.16	0.70

Note. 4 grades (0, normal; 1, mild; 2, moderate; 3, marked)

Table 3. Average Scores of Alterations of Posterior Disk Margin Comparing Neutral Position with Flexion and Extension

Disks	Neutral vs Flexion	Neutral vs Extension
C2 - 3	0	0.12
C3 - 4	- 0.12	0.32
C4 - 5	- 0.20	0.36
C5 - 6	- 0.96	0.68
C6 - 7	- 0.96	0.36
C7 - T1	- 0.12	0
Average	- 0.39	0.31

Note. 5 scores (- 2, prominent decrease of bulging; - 1, mild decrease; 0, no change; 1, mild increase; 2, prominent increase)

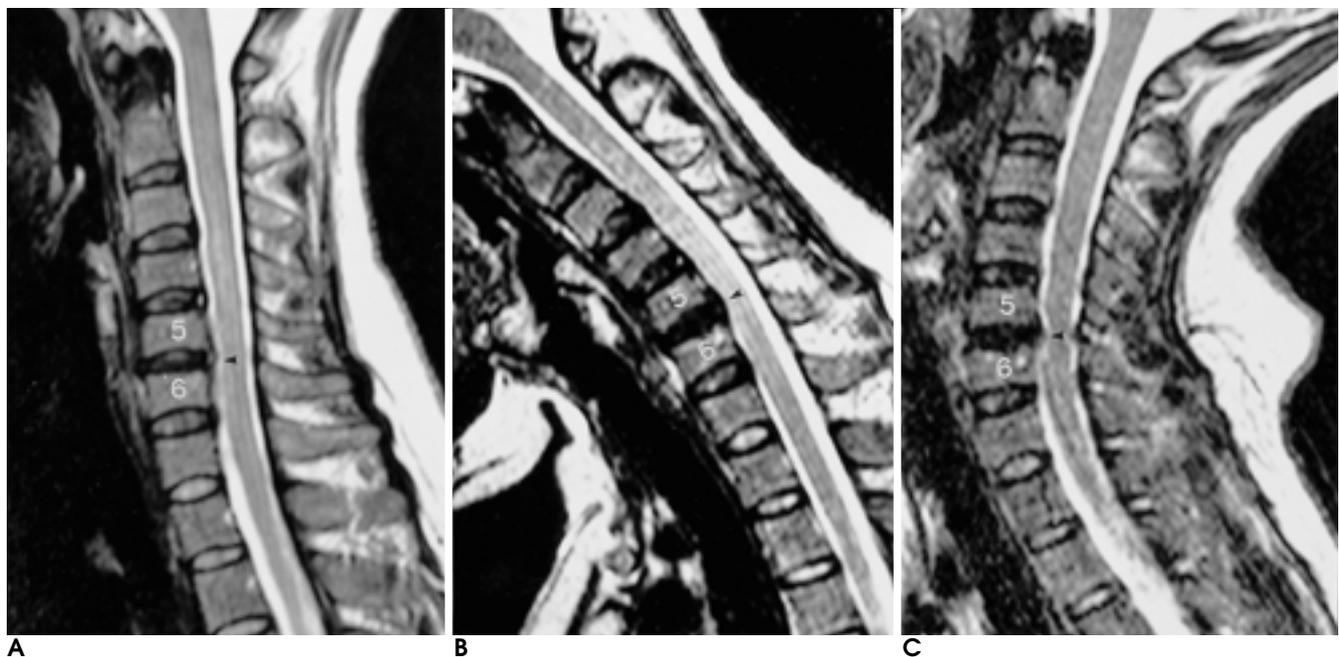


Fig. 2. Positional dependence of C5-6 disk bulging in a 40-year-old women with moderate degenerative disease(arrowhead). Bulging thickness of the disk is 18mm in neutral position, 16mm in flexion, 23mm in extension.
A. Sagittal T2 weighted turbo spin-echo conventional MR image obtained at relaxed neutral position shows moderate bulging of the disk(grade 2).
B. On T2 weighted image of flexed cervical spine, bulging thickness of the disk is decreased and diameter of spinal canal is increased(grade 1, score -1).
C. On T2 weighted image of extended cervical spine, bulging thickness of the disk is increased and diameter of spinal canal is decreased(grade 3, score 1).

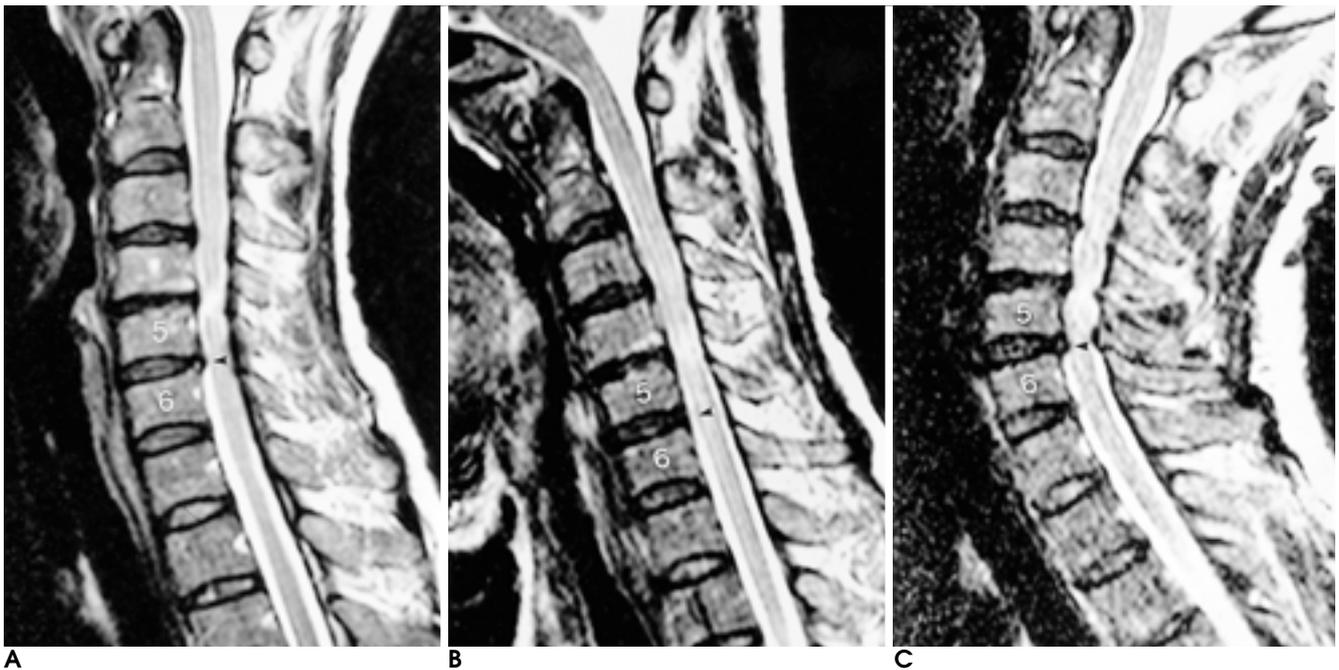


Fig. 3. Alteration of disk bulging and spinal stenosis during positional changes in a 41-year-old women with bulging of C3-4, C4-5, and C5-6 disks and focal myelopathy. Bulging thickness of the disk is 19mm in neutral position, 3mm in flexion, 23mm in extension.

A. In sagittal T2 weighted image of neutral position, the C5-6 disk show moderate bulging with spinal stenosis(arrowhead)(grade 2). Focal intramedullary high signal intensity is noted at the level of C4-5 disk.

B. In flexion of the cervical spine, the disk bulging and spinal stenosis at the level of C5-6 disk are prominently decreased(arrowhead)(grade 0, score -2).

C. In extension of cervical spine, both disk bulging and spinal stenosis are accentuated(arrowhead)(grade 3, score 2).

Table 4. Measurements of Bulging Thickness of Disk

Disks	Neutral	Flexion	Extension
C2-3	0.12 ± 0.15	0.14 ± 0.18	0.21 ± 0.27
C3-4	0.46 ± 0.43	0.36 ± 0.33	0.79 ± 0.39*
C4-5	0.74 ± 0.31	0.54 ± 0.34*	0.83 ± 0.43
C5-6	1.03 ± 0.52	0.62 ± 0.39*	1.21 ± 0.52
C6-7	1.22 ± 0.48	0.76 ± 0.38*	1.16 ± 0.42
C7-T1	0.48 ± 0.30	0.31 ± 0.21*	0.53 ± 0.34

Note. average ± standard deviation(mm)

* (p < 0.05)

Table 5. Measurements of AP Diameter of Spinal Canal

Disks	Neutral	Flexion	Extension
C2 - 3	10.99 ± 1.40	10.86 ± 1.48	10.86 ± 1.36
C3 - 4	10.05 ± 1.48	10.06 ± 1.47	9.44 ± 1.51*
C4 - 5	9.56 ± 1.41	10.12 ± 1.22*	9.17 ± 1.35*
C5 - 6	9.22 ± 1.10	10.23 ± 0.95*	8.52 ± 1.33*
C6 - 7	9.26 ± 0.62	10.12 ± 0.92*	9.25 ± 0.90
C7 - T1	10.82 ± 1.09	11.06 ± 1.14	10.56 ± 1.04

Note. average ± standard deviation(mm)

* (p < 0.05)

가 C4 - 5, C5 - 6, C6 - 7 C7 - T1 3.6% C5 - 6
, C3 - 4 (p < 0.05). 1.49 ± 0.58 mm 가 C6 - 7 C7 - T1
24.2% 30.3% C2 - 3 가
가 (Table 4). C4 - 5, C5 - 6, C7 - T1
6 (9.22 ± 1.10 mm) 가 C4 - 5, C5 - 6, C6 - 7 가 ,
C3 - 4, C4 - 5, C5 - 6 가 ,
(p < 0.05)(Table 5). 16/25
(64%) 가 1/25 (4%)
13/25 (52%) , 4/25 (16%) 가 (biomechanical)
4.5% 가 가

: 가

(30%) 10% . 가
 , 6.6% , 19.1% .
 Muhle (1)
 가
 가
 가 가
 가
 (cine)MR 가
 가

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The Influence of Changes in Cervical Lordosis on Bulging Disk and Spinal Stenosis: Functional MR Imaging¹

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Purpose: To assess the effect of lordotic curve change of the cervical spine on disk bulging and spinal stenosis by means of functional cervical MR imaging at the flexion and extension position.

Materials and Methods: Using a 1.5T imager, kinematic MR examinations of 25 patients with degenerative spondylosis (average age, 41 years) were performed at the neutral, flexed and extended position of the cervical spine. Sagittal T2-weighted turbo spin-echo images were obtained during each of the three phases. Lordotic angle, bulging thickness of the disk, AP diameter of the spinal canal, and distance between the disk and spinal cord were measured on the workstation at each disk level. After qualitative independent observation of disk bulging, one of four grades(0, normal; 1, mild; 2, moderate; 3, marked) was assigned at each phase, and after further comparative observation, one of five scores (- 2, prominent decrease; -1, mild decrease; 0, no change; 1, notable increase; 2 prominent increase) was also assigned. In addition, bulging thickness of the disk was measured and compared at the neutral, flexed, and extended positions.

Results: Average angles of the cervical spine were 160.5 ± 5.9 (neutral position, lordotic angle); 185.4 ± 8.5 (flexion, kyphotic angle); and 143.7 ± 6.7 (extension, lordotic angle). Average grades of disk bulging were 0.55 at the neutral position, 0.16 at flexion, and 0.7 at extension. Comparative observation showed that average scores of disk bulging were - 0.39 at flexion and 0.31 at extension. The bulging thickness of the disk decreased by 24.2% at flexion and increased by 30.3% at extension, while the diameter of the spinal canal increased by 4.5% at flexion and decreased by 3.6% at extension. The distance from the posterior margin of the disk to the anterior margin of the spinal cord decreased at both flexion(6.6%) and extension(19.1%).

Conclusion: Functional MRI showed that compared with the neutral position, disk bulging and spinal stenosis are less prominent at flexion and accentuated at extension. The results demonstrate the need to consider the extent to which changes in the cervical lordotic curve affect the degree of disk bulging and spinal stenosis.

Index words : Spine, intervertebral disks
Spinal canal
Spine, MR
Magnetic Resonance (MR), functional imaging

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