

CT 1

: CT
 .
 : 14 200 CT
 . CT 2 5 7
 grade 1 - 5 (grade
 1 - 3) (grade 4 - 5)
 : neurocentral synchondrosis 5 , 9
 posterior synchondrosis 3
 97% , 3 99%
 neurocentral synchondrosis 3 , 5
 97% posterior synchondrosis 6
 2 , 2 dento -
 central synchondrosis 3 93% , 5
 96% intradental synchondrosis
 . terminal ossicle 2 11%, 5 99% 가
 . terminal ossicle 5 49
 , 9 97%
 : CT ,

(craniocervical junction) , 1 , 2 가
 (Fig. 1B).
 (foramen magnum) (synchondrosis)
 (occipital bone), (atlas, C1), (axis, C2)
 , - (atlanto - occipital joint) (osseous dys -
 (atlantoaxial joint) plasia)
 (1).
 (spinous process)가
 (anterior arch) (posterior arch)
 , 1 (ossification center)
 2 (Fig. 1A).
 가 5

가 . CT (skull base) 200 가 119 ,
가 81 33 13 (Table 1).
CT HiSpeed Advantage (GE Medical
Systems, Milwaukee, Wis, U.S.A.) ,
CT 14 (high spatial frequency algorithm) 2 - 3 mm

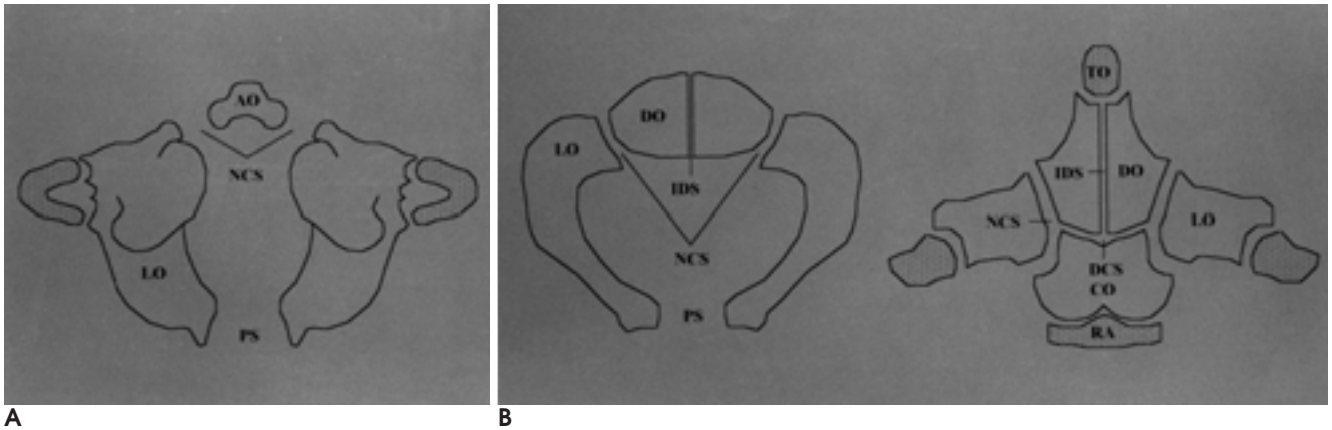


Fig. 1. Schematic drawing of the ossification centers and synchondroses of the developing atlas (A) and axis (B). The secondary ossification centers are denoted by dotted areas. AO = anterior ossification center, CO = central ossification center, DO = dens ossification center, DCS = dentocentral synchondrosis, IDS = intradental synchondrosis, LO = lateral ossification center, NCS = neurocentral synchondrosis, PS = posterior synchondrosis, RA = ring apophysis, TO = terminal ossicle.

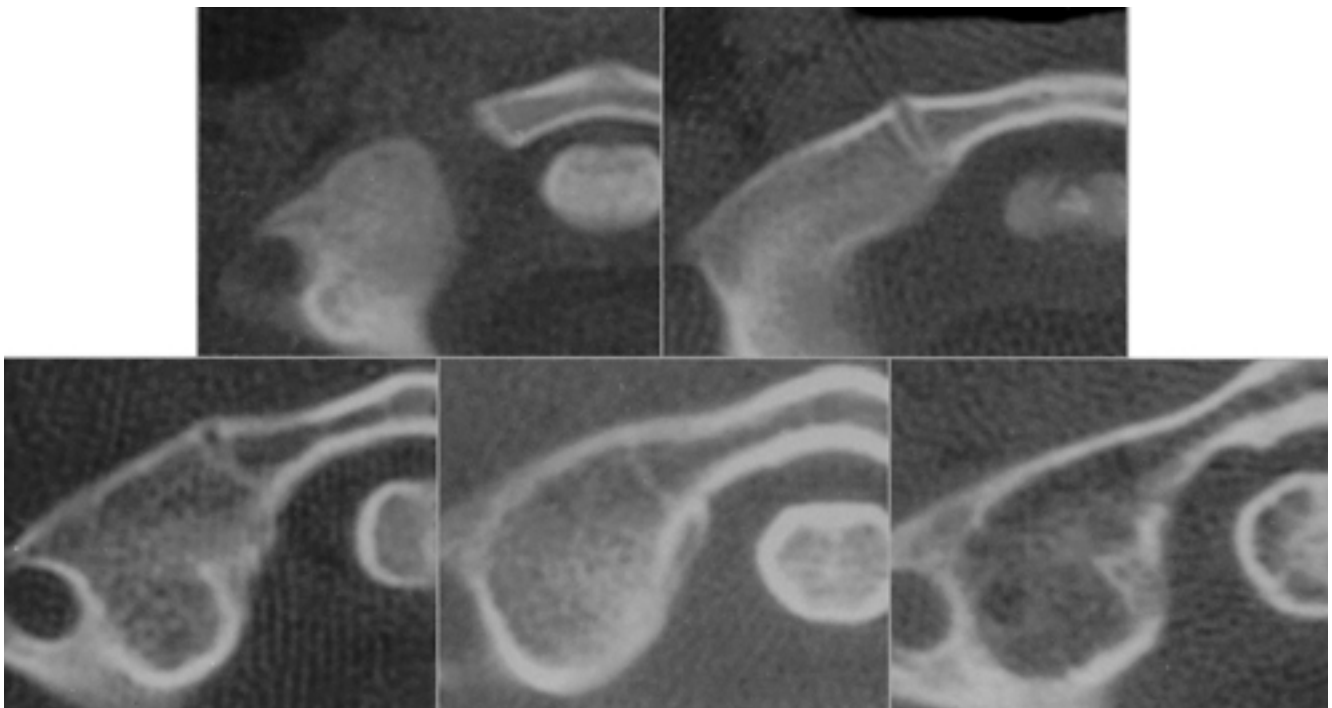


Fig. 2. Five-tier scheme for grading fusion of synchondrosis at CT. Grade 1 (top left), Margins of the synchondrosis are clearly separated on all CT sections; Grade 2 (top right), Clear separation of the synchondrosis is seen on most sections, but some areas are indistinct or suspicious for osseous bridge; Grade 3 (bottom left), Area of fusion or bridging across a portion of the synchondrosis is definitely seen; Grade 4 (bottom middle), Complete fusion of the synchondrosis with remnant sclerotic margins is seen; Grade 5 (bottom right), Complete closure is seen with no apparent vestige remaining.

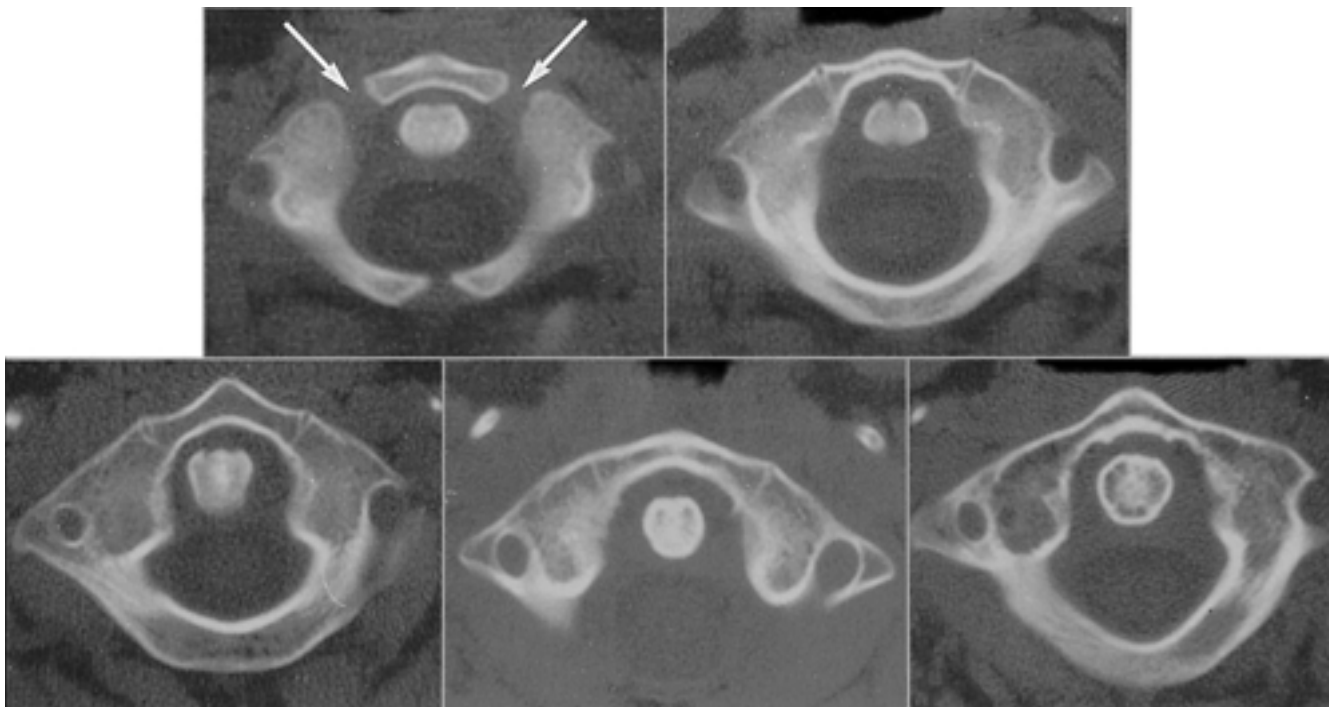
35 (axial scan) , 65 (coronal scan) , center) terminal ossicle 7 (secondary ossification)
 , 100 , neurocen-
 C2 - C3 tral synchondrosis posterior synchondro-
 , 100 , 가
 (hyperextension) , dentocentral synchondrosis terminal ossicle
 가 , 165 , 가 ,
 2 - 3 mm bone neurocentral synchondrosis intradental synchon-
 window setting drosis 200
 CT , 가 .
 posterior synchondrosis 2 Madeline Elster (5)가
 neurocentral synchondrosis, posterior synchondrosis, den-
 tocentral synchondrosis intradental synchondrosis 4

Table 1. Subjects Demography

Age	No. of subjects	
	Boys	Girls
< 6 m	2	0
< 12 m	7	5
< 24 m	16	6
< 3 y	11	6
< 5 y	10	11
< 7 y	23	17
< 9 y	25	23
< 14y	25	13
Total	119	81

Table 2. Grade Fusion of Neurocentral Synchondrosis of the Atlas

Age	No. of subjects					Total
	Low-grade fusion		High-grade fusion			
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	
< 6 m	2	0	0	0	0	2
< 12 m	8	0	0	0	0	8
< 2 y	11	0	0	0	0	11
< 3 y	8	0	0	0	0	8
< 5 y	4	2	0	0	0	6
< 7 y	3	5	4	3	3	18
< 9 y	1	3	10	8	3	25
< 14 y	0	0	0	6	16	22
Total	37	10	14	17	22	100

**Fig. 3.** Postnatal development of the neurocentral synchondrosis of the atlas.

Axial CT scans obtained from 16-month-old boy (top left), 7-year-old boy (top right), 7-year-old boy (bottom left), 9-year-old boy (bottom middle), and 12-year-old boy (bottom right) show grade 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 fusion of the neurocentral synchondrosis (arrows) of the atlas, respectively.

	CT	grade 1 - 5	5	(Fig. 2).	grade 4	, 3	71
, grade 1	CT				70 (99%)	grade 4 (<i>n</i> =3)	grade 5 (<i>n</i> =67)
, grade 2						, 1 (1%)	grade 1
				가 (osseous			
bridge)		, grade 3			<i>neurocentral synchondrosis</i> (Table 4, Fig. 5)		
		, grade 4			neurocentral synchondrosis		
			, grade 5				200
					가 . 3		53 grade
minal ossicle	.	terminal ossicle	ter -	1 (<i>n</i> =33), grade 2 (<i>n</i> =19),		grade 3 (<i>n</i> =1)	
. CT		grade 0		. 3 5		21 10 (48%)	
2				grade 2 (<i>n</i> =6) grade 3 (<i>n</i> =4)			
CT				, 11 (52%) grade 4 (<i>n</i> =5) grade 5 (<i>n</i> =6)			
				. 5		126 4	
(grade 1 - 3)		(grade 4 - 5)		122 (97%) grade 4 (<i>n</i> =14) grade 5 (<i>n</i> =108)			
terminal ossicle		grade 0 - 3					
					<i>posterior synchondrosis</i> (Table 5, Fig. 6)		
					posterior synchondrosis		
					100	가 . 6	
<i>neurocentral synchondrosis</i> (Table 2, Fig. 3)				2	grade 1	grade 2	
neurocentral synchondrosis			(ante -	, 6	2	19 7 (37%)	
rrior arch)							
		100					
가 . 5		35	grade 1 (<i>n</i> = 33)				
grade 2 (<i>n</i> =2)			. 5				
9	43	26 (60%)	,				
17 (40%)			. 9				
12							
<i>posterior synchondrosis</i> (Table 3, Fig. 4)							
posterior synchondrosis			(posterior arch)				
	100		가 . 3				
	29	28 (97%)	grade 1 (<i>n</i> =27)				
grade 2 (<i>n</i> =1)			, 1 (3%)				

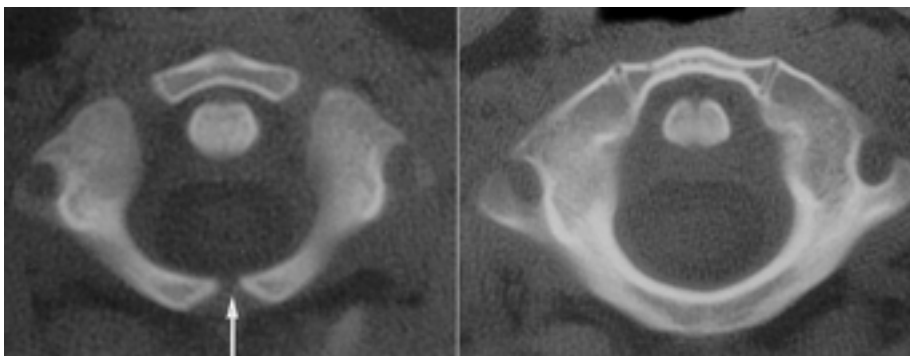


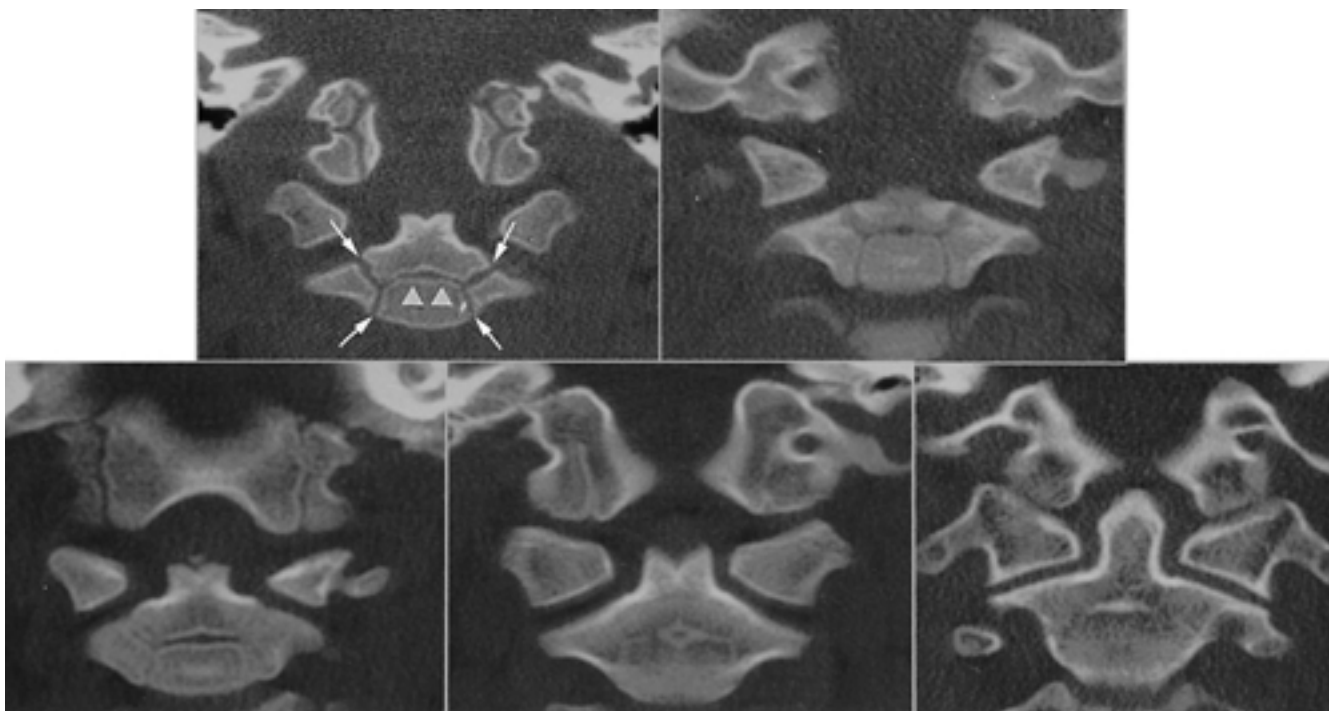
Fig. 4. Postnatal development of the posterior synchondrosis of the atlas. Axial CT scans obtained from 16-month-old boy (left) and 7-year-old boy (right) show grade 1 and 5 fusion of the posterior synchondrosis (arrow) of the atlas, respectively.

Table 4. Grade Fusion of Neurocentral Synchondrosis of the Axis

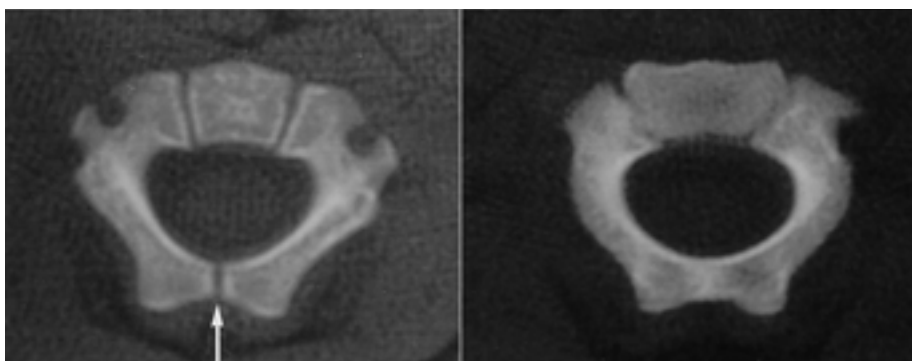
Age	No. of subjects					Total
	Low-grade fusion		High-grade fusion			
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	
< 6 m	2	0	0	0	0	2
< 12 m	9	3	0	0	0	12
< 2 y	16	6	0	0	0	22
< 3 y	6	10	1	0	0	17
< 5 y	0	6	4	5	6	21
< 7 y	1	1	2	11	25	40
< 9 y	0	0	0	2	46	48
< 14 y	0	0	0	1	37	38
Total	34	26	7	19	114	200

Table 5. Grade Fusion of Posterior Synchondrosis of the Axis

Age	No. of subjects					Total
	Low-grade fusion		High-grade fusion			
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	
< 6 m	1	1	0	0	0	2
< 12 m	3	1	1	0	3	8
< 2 y	2	0	0	1	8	11
< 3 y	0	0	0	0	8	8
< 5 y	0	0	0	0	6	6
< 7 y	0	0	0	0	18	18
< 9 y	0	0	0	1	24	25
< 14 y	0	0	0	0	22	22
Total	6	2	1	2	89	100

**Fig. 5.** Postnatal development of the neurocentral and dentocentral synchondroses of the axis.

Coronal CT scans obtained from 15-month-old boy (top left), 22-month-old boy (top right), 2-year-old boy (bottom left), 5-year-old boy (bottom middle), and 10-year-old boy (bottom right) show grade 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 fusion of the neurocentral synchondrosis (arrows) of the axis, respectively. Fusion of the dentocentral synchondrosis (arrowheads) in these children was judged as grade 1, 2, 1, 3, and 4, respectively.

**Fig. 6.** Postnatal development of the posterior synchondrosis of the axis.

Axial CT scans obtained from 7-month-old boy (left) and 4-year-old girl (right) show grade 1 and 4 fusion of the posterior synchondrosis (arrow) of the axis, respectively.

grade 1 (n=5), grade 2 (n=1), grade 3 (n=1)
12 (63%) grade 4 (n=1)
grade 5 (n=11) . 2 79
grade 5 .
dentocentral synchondrosis (Table 6, Fig. 5)
dentocentral synchondrosis (odontoid
process)
165
가 . 3 41 38 (93%)
grade 1 (n=25) grade 2 (n=13)
, 3 (7%) grade 4 . 3
5 18 12 (67%) grade 1 (n=2),
grade 2 (n=7), grade 3 (n=3)
6 (33%) grade 4 (n=5) grade 5 (n=1)
. 5 106 4 102
(96%) grade 4 (n=87) grade 5 (n=15)
grade 4 7
intradental synchondrosis (Table 7, Fig. 7)
intradental synchondrosis 2
200
가 . 200 grade 4
(n=22) grade 5 (n=178)
가 .
terminal ossicle (Table 8, Fig. 8)
terminal ossicle
165 가
. terminal ossicle CT
가 7
. 2 27 3 (11%), 2 5 32
22 (69%), 5 106 5 6
1 105 (99%) grade 1 가
. terminal ossicle

: CT
5 49 grade 0 (n=34), grade 1 (n= 23),
grade 2 (n=2) , 5 9
72 38 (53%) grade 0 (n=1), grade
1 (n=21), grade 2 (n=10), grade 3 (n=6)
34 (47%) grade 4 (n=14) grade
5 (n=20) . 9 34
grade 1 1 33 (97%) grade 4 (n=8)
grade 5 (n=25) .
(somite)
(mesenchymal spine)
(precartilaginous stage), (chondri -
cation center) (stage of chondrification),
(stage of ossification) 3
1 2
가 .
3 5
(hyaline cartilage)
(6).
4 (sclerotome)

Table 6. Grade Fusion of Dentocentral Synchondrosis of the Axis

Age	No. of subjects					Total
	Low-grade fusion		High-grade fusion			
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	
< 6 m	0	0	0	0	0	0
< 12 m	7	0	0	1	0	8
< 2 y	14	4	0	1	0	19
< 3 y	4	9	0	1	0	14
< 5 y	2	7	3	5	1	18
< 7 y	1	1	2	25	4	33
< 9 y	0	0	0	34	5	39
< 14 y	0	0	0	28	6	34
Total	28	21	5	95	16	165

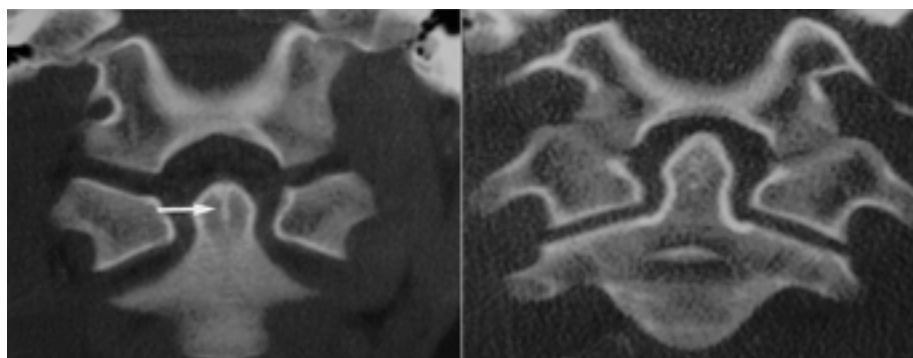


Fig. 7. Postnatal development of the intradental synchondrosis of the axis. Coronal CT scans obtained from 9-year-old boy (left) and 10-year-old boy (right) show grade 4 and 5 fusion of the intradental synchondrosis (arrow) of the axis, respectively.

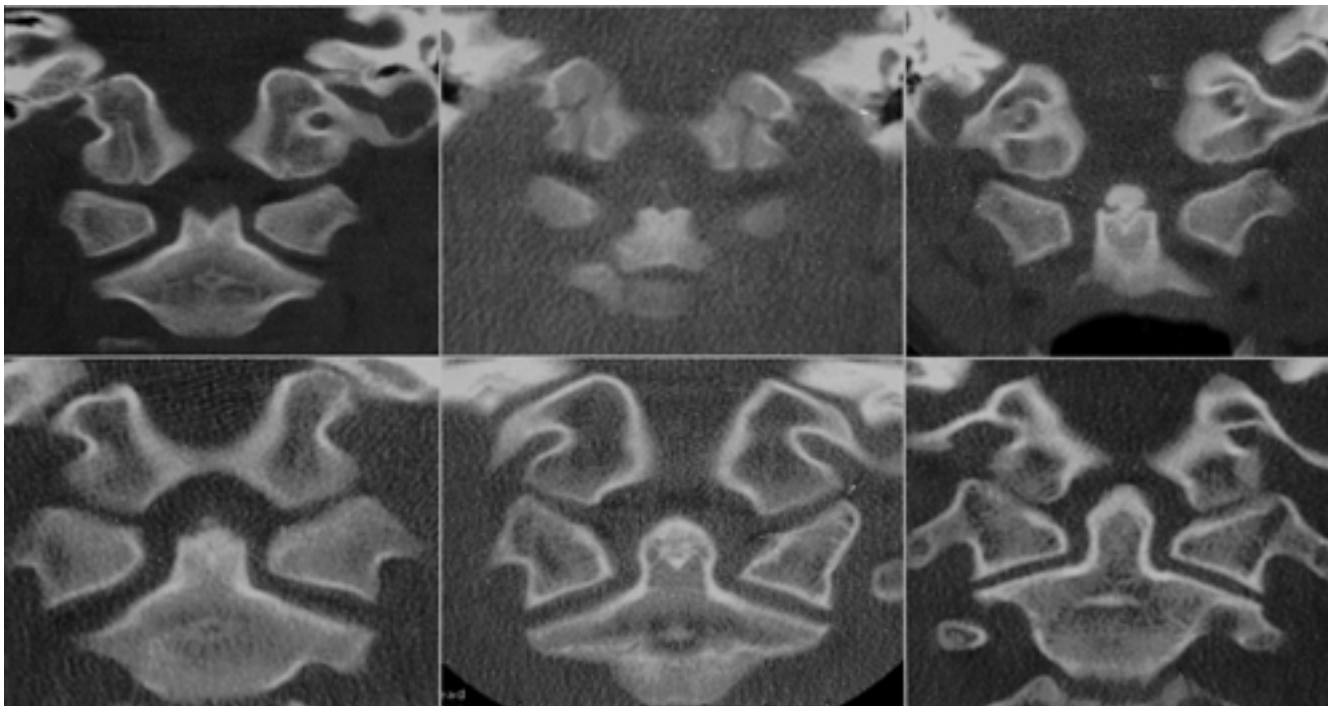
1 (primitive mesenchyme) 2 (2, 4, 7).
 3 (dens, odontoid process) 1 2 4 1 neurocentral synchon-
 (Fig. 1A). 5 posterior
 (2, 3, 7, 8). 1 (anterior center) 2 (lateral center, neural center) 3 1 (central center) 2
 20% 1 가 7 1 6 가
 terminal ossicle

Table 7. Grade Fusion of Intradental Synchondrosis of the Axis

Age	No. of subjects					Total
	Low-grade fusion		High-grade fusion			
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	
< 6 m	0	0	0	1	1	2
< 12 m	0	0	0	1	11	12
< 2 y	0	0	0	1	21	22
< 3 y	0	0	0	3	14	17
< 5 y	0	0	0	2	19	21
< 7 y	0	0	0	4	36	40
< 9 y	0	0	0	5	43	48
< 14 y	0	0	0	5	33	38
Total	0	0	0	22	178	200

Table 8. Grade Fusion of Terminal Ossicle of the Axis

Age	No. of subjects						Total
	Low-grade fusion			High-grade fusion			
	Grade 0	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	
< 6 m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
< 12 m	7	1	0	0	0	0	8
< 2 y	17	2	0	0	0	0	19
< 3 y	5	9	0	0	0	0	14
< 5 y	5	11	2	0	0	0	18
< 7 y	1	18	5	3	1	5	33
< 9 y	0	3	5	3	13	15	39
< 14 y	0	1	0	0	8	25	34
Total	35	45	12	6	22	45	165

**Fig. 8.** Postnatal development of the terminal ossicle of the axis.

Coronal CT scans obtained from 5-year-old boy (top left), 7-month-old boy (top middle), 8-year-old boy (top right), 7-year-old boy (bottom left), 12-year-old boy (bottom middle), and 10-year-old girl (bottom right) show grade 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 fusion of the terminal ossicle with the remainder of the dens of the axis, respectively.

CT

(3, 4, 9).

1 neu - 15 CT 가

rocentral synchondrosis가 1 . , Filtzer (12) 3

posterior synchondrosis가 . 4 50% 가 6

dentocentral synchondrosis가 가 .

intradental synchondrosis 3

가 (Fig. 1B). , 3 5 (48%)

(2 - 4), CT 3 - 4 가 97%

Calvy (4) 가 . Ogden (2, 3) 14

36

Calvy (4) CT

18 가

129 , 1.5 - 10 mm

soft tissue window 2

37% , 6 2

CT , 2 - 3 , 2

mm neurocentral synchondrosis

bone window Calvy .

dentocentral synchondrosis 3 - 6

(11). Ogden (3) 3

5 - 6 가 6

, Barnes (7) 6 가

6

2

37% , 63%

가 가 .

neurocentral synchondrosis 7

(10, 11), Ogden (2) 6

, Calvy (4) 가

7 1

5

, 5 9 60%

, 40% , 9

가

posterior synchondrosis neurocentral synchondrosis

drosis 가 3

(11), 5 - 6

(7). Ogden (2) 5

Calvy (4) 4 2

3 97%

, 3 99%

가

(spina bifida occul -

ta) (2).

neurocentral synchondrosis 3 - 6

(7, 11). Ogden (3) 5

가 가 9 - 10

CT

, Calvy (4) 1

CT

Barnes (7)

Hensinger (9, 13)

1 - 2

(cleft) 가 .

200

가 .

가 , CT

V

(epiphysis)

2 terminal ossicle 10 -

12 , 가

가 (4, 11). Ogden (3) 5 - 8 terminal ossi - cle

, Filtzer (12) 5 - 11 70 26% terminal ossicle

, Calvy (4) CT

2 - 9 23 13 terminal ossicle

, Barnes (7) terminal ossicle

1 3 가

8 - 12 Ogden

Filtzer CT

terminal ossicle 가

7 , 2 11%, 2 5

69%, 5 99% 가

Calvy Barnes . terminal

ossicle , 5 49 , 5 (53%)

9 (47%) , 9 97%

Barnes (7)

1 가

1 , intradental synchondrosis 1 - 2

가

가

가

CT

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Postnatal Development of the Atlas and Axis: CT Study¹

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Purpose: To evaluate normal postnatal development of the atlas and axis by means of CT scanning.

Materials and Methods: We prospectively analyzed CT scans of the developing atlas and axis of 200 normal children aged less than 14, investigating the CT appearance of these regions with particular attention to two synchondroses related to the atlas and four synchondroses and one ossification center related to the axis. Fusion varying was categorized as either low (grade 1 - 5) or high (grade 4 - 5), according to the varying degrees of fusion at each synchondrosis or ossification center.

Results: Neurocentral synchondrosis of the atlas was low grade in all children less than five, and high grade in all aged nine or more, while posterior synchondrosis of the atlas was low grade in 97% of children less than three and high grade in 99% aged three or more. As for the axis, neurocentral synchondrosis was low grade in all children less than three, and high grade in 97% of children aged five or more. PS of the axis was low grade in both children less than 6 months, and high grade in all aged two years or more. Dentocentral synchondrosis of the axis was low grade in 93% of children less than three and high grade in 96% of those aged at least five. Intradental axial synchondrosis was high grade in all children. Fusion of the terminal ossicle with the remainder of the dens was low in all children less than five and high in 97% of those aged nine or more.

Conclusion: CT can help determine the parameters of normal postnatal development of the atlas and axis. A knowledge of normal ossification patterns of these regions may help provide an understanding of developmental anomalies and also help prevent confusion with fractures.

Index words : Atlas and axis

Atlas and axis, growth and development

Atlas and axis, CT

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