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Thoracic Myelopathy Due to Ossification of Ligamentum Flavum - Three cases Report -

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- Abstract -

Ossification of the ligamentum flavum (OLF) is a definite clinical entity and is thought to be a form of ectopic ossification which develops predominantly in the lower thoracic spine.

OLF causes progressive compressive myelopathy, radiculopathy, or combination of both.

We experienced 3 cases of OLF with neurological symptoms, which were treated by posterior decompressive laminectomy and removal of the ossified ligamentum flavum with or without fusion with symptomatic improvement.

Key Words : Thoracic myelopathy, Ossification of ligamentum flavum

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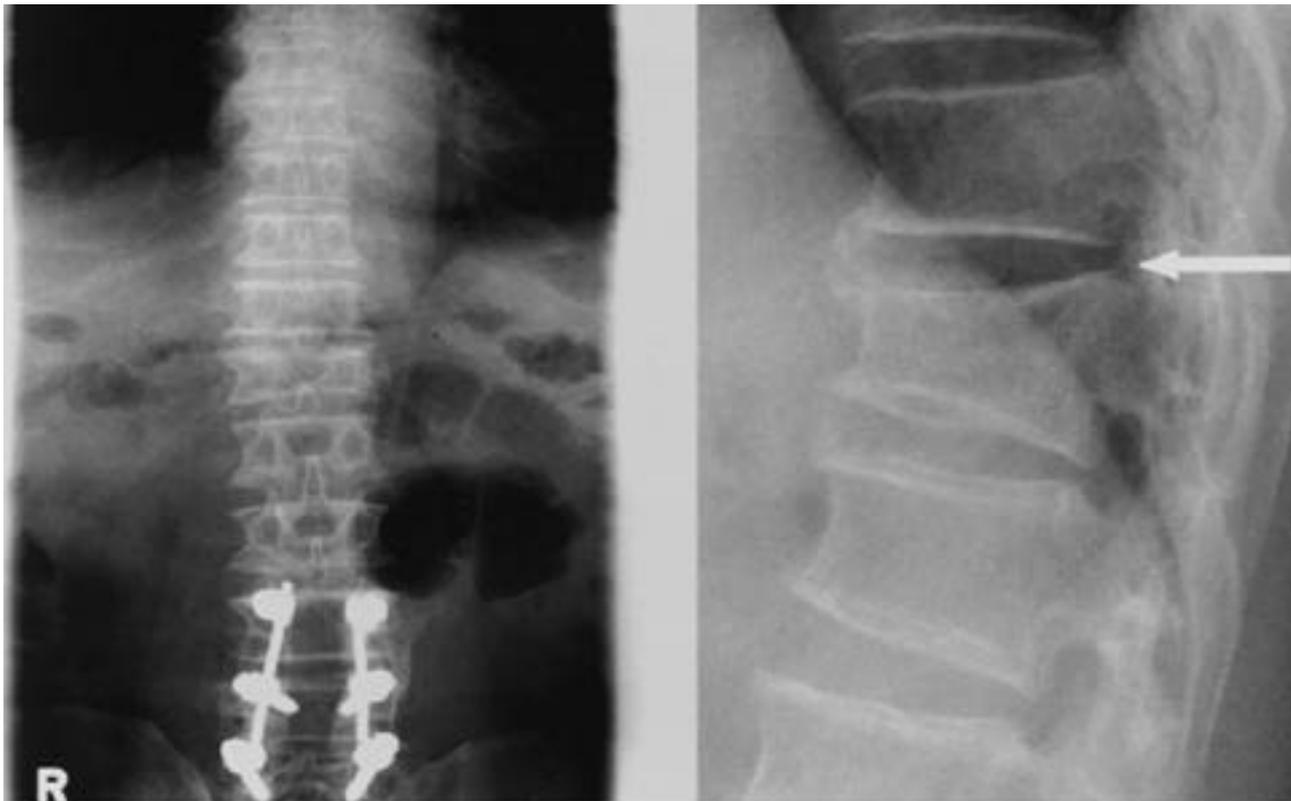


Fig 1. Preoperative anteroposterior & lateral radiographs shows a compression fracture of the body of T12 and triangular shaped mass are protruded into the spinal canal at T10-11, T11-12 level (case 1).

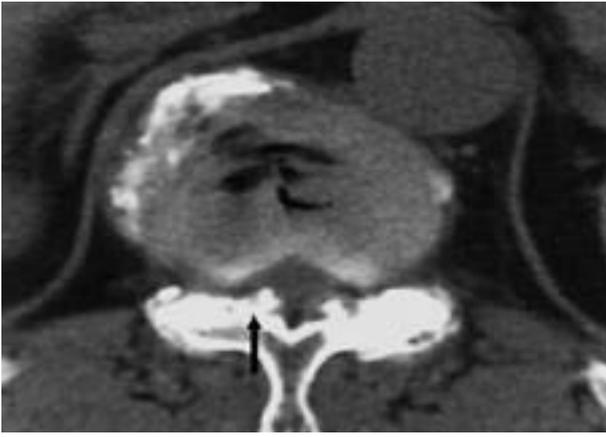


Fig 2. On CT scan, the spinal canal is compressed by ossified mass and intervertebral disc at T11-12 level.

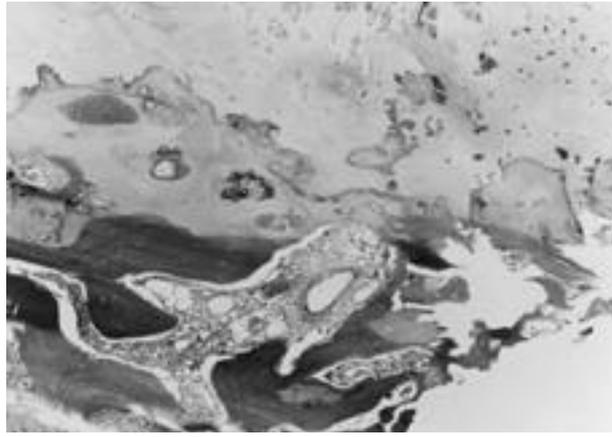


Fig 4. Microscopically, section of the mass shows an area of ossification in the ligamentum flavum (H&E × 400).

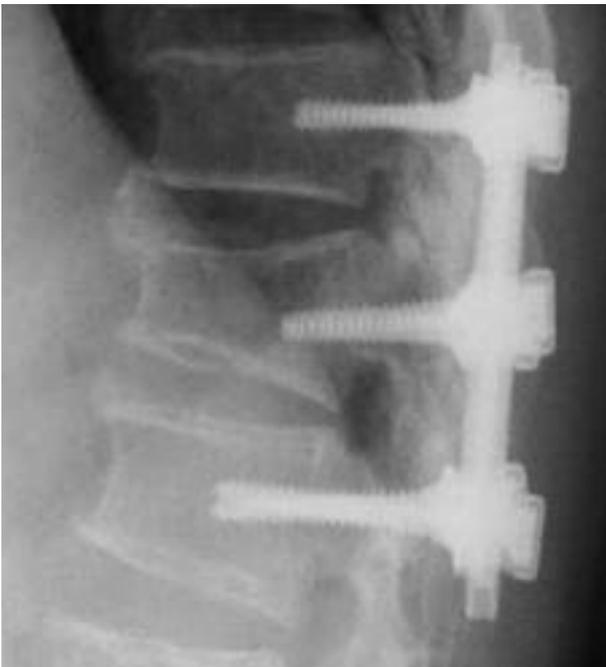


Fig 3. The postoperative plain lateral radiograph shows that ossified mass was removed.

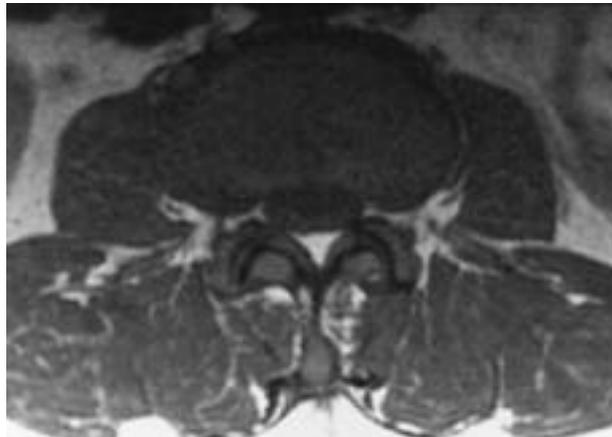


Fig 5. The preoperative MRI show that spinal canal is compressed by ossified nodular mass at T11-12 level (case 2).

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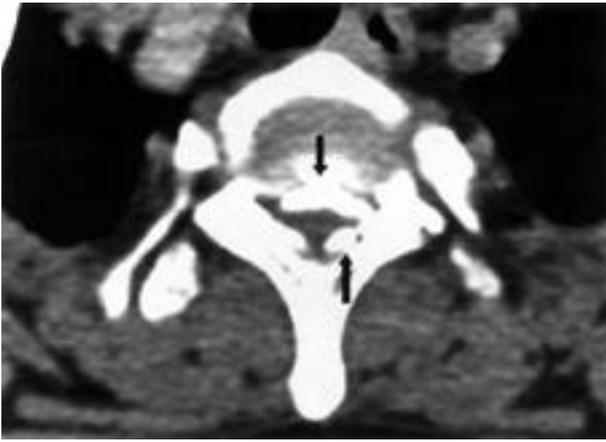


Fig 6. The preoperative CT scan reveal ossification of posterior longitudinal ligament and ligamentum flavum at T1-2 level (case 3).

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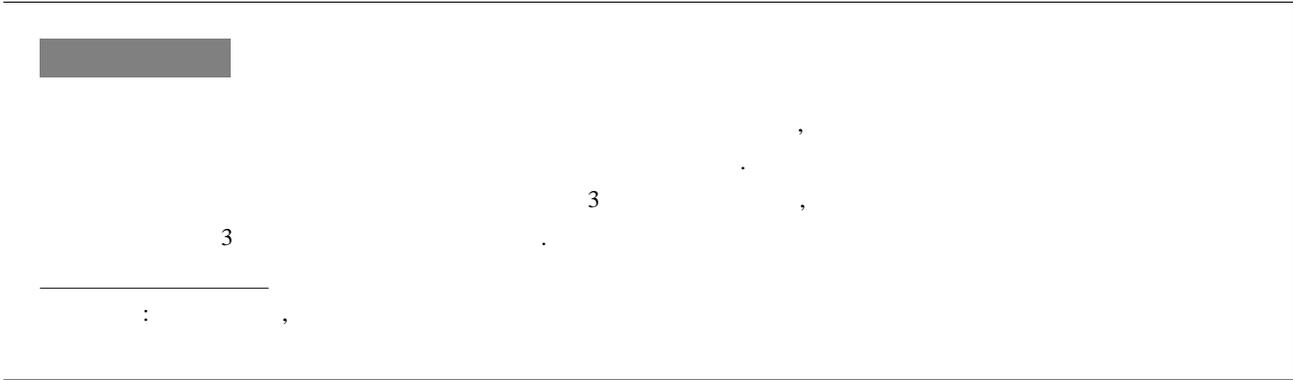
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2240

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