

Distribution and Patterns of Posterior Column Injury in Flexion-Distracton Injuries of Thoracolumbar Spine

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- Abstract -

Study Design: A retrospective analysis of the distribution and patterns of posterior column injury in flexion- distraction injuries of the thoracolumbar spine.

Objectives: To recognize the various types of posterior column injury in terms of the path of the distraction force in flexion- distraction injuries of the thoracolumbar spine.

Summary of Literature Review: As posterior column injuries are associated with instability of the spine, many authors have described and classified posterior column injuries. However, there are no descriptions or classifications in terms of the path of the distraction force in the literature.

Materials and Method: The preoperative plain X- rays, axial CT, MRI (in 5 patients) and operation records of 34 patients were reviewed in relation to the patterns of posterior column injury.

Results: Posterior column injuries can be classified into two main types. In Type A (30/34), the distraction failure started from the spinous process one level above the fractured body (Type A) or the posterior ligament complex between the spinous processes of the fractured and the level above (Type B). In Type B (4/34), the distraction failure started from the spinous process of the fractured vertebra and from the interspinous ligament between the fractured level and the level below.

Conclusions: Posterior column injuries can be described according to their starting point and the extent of the distraction force. Of these, Type B was the most common. Using this classification, the injury of the posterior column in injuries of the thoracolumbar spine fracture can be predicted.

Key words: Flexion- distraction injury, Posterior column injury, Distraction force, Distribution and patterns

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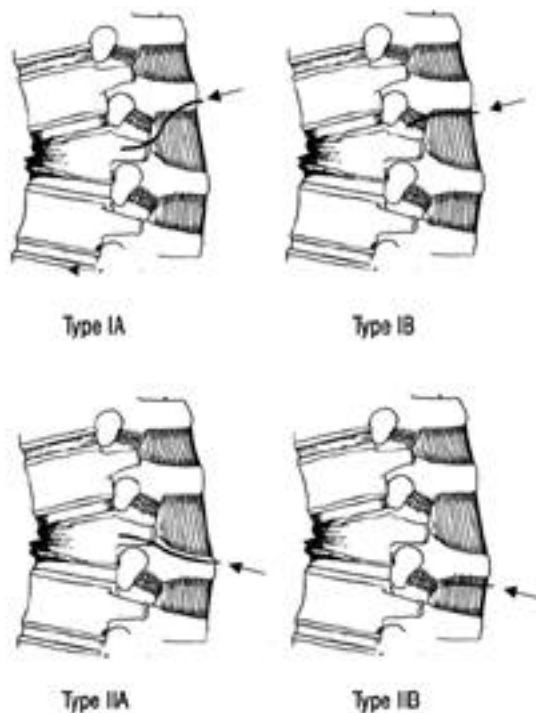


Fig. 1. Classification of posterior column injury according to the path of distraction force

Type

A: Distraction failure started from the spinous process of one level above. B: Distraction failure started from the posterior ligament complex between the spinous processes of fractured and one level above.

Type

A: Distraction failure started from the spinous process of the fracture vertebra. B: Distraction failure started from the posterior ligament complex between the spinous processes of the fractured and one level below.

4 (12%)가

2.

34

, 가 11 , 가 23 , , A B



Fig. 2. An example of Type A-2

T-L spine lateral X-ray shows wedge compression of L1 body and spinous process fracture of T12 (arrow).

A

B

(Fig. 1).

(1)

() 30 , A 11 , 가 1 , 1 가 8 , 2 가 2 , A (A-1), (A-2) (A-3)



Fig. 3. An example of Type B-3
T-L lateral X-ray shows severe wedge compression of T11 and widened interspinous space between T10 and T11.

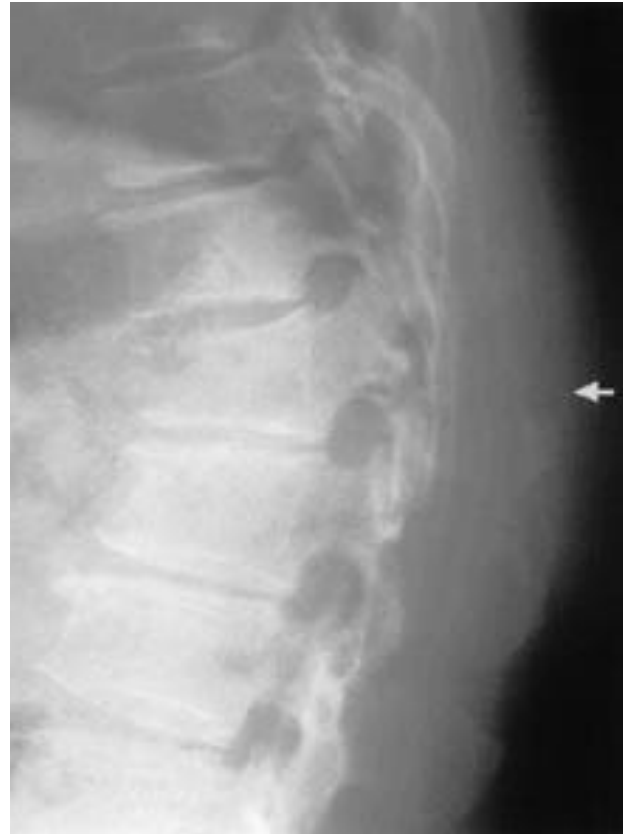


Fig. 4. An example of Type A
T-L spine lateral X-ray shows wedge compression of L1 body and horizontal fracture of spinous process of the fractured vertebra (arrow).

A-1 4 3 가 1
, 1 가 2 A-2 3
2 가
1
1 가 12 , 2 가 1
(Fig. 2). A-3 4
3 가 1 , 1 가 2
1
B 19
10 11 2 , 11
12 7 , 12 1
8 , 1 2 2
(B-1),
(B-2),

(B-3) 10 , 4 , 5
B-1
가 4 , 10
가 6 , 11
12 4 , 12 1
5 , 1 2
1 B-2 12 1 , 1 2 ,
2 1 가 B-3
11 2 , 12 2 , 1
1 가 (Fig. 3).
(2)
()
4 A 3
3
12 1 , 1 2

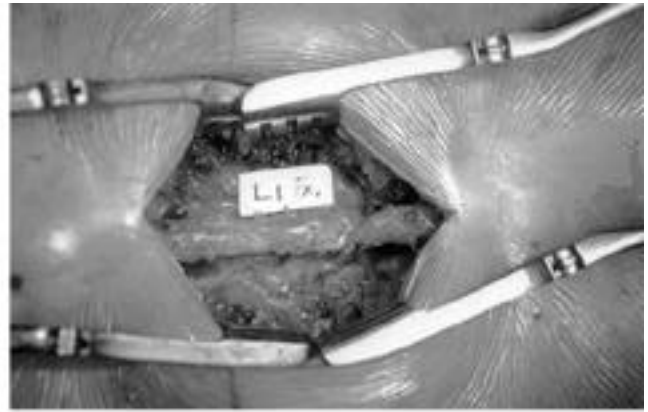


Fig. 5. (A) An example of Type B T-L lateral X-ray shows wedge compression of L1 body and minimal widening of interspinous space between L1 and L2 (arrow). **(B)** Operative finding shows disruption of posterior ligament complex between L1 and L2.

가 (Fig. 4).

5 B 100% .

B 1

1 (Fig. 5 A,B).

3.

가

A 1 , B 12 1 1,3).

(Table 1).

5,7).

4.

89% 가

가

A B
73%(8/11), 47%(9/19) (Table 2).

, Shin ⁸⁾ 25 15

, ,

가 4 ,

가 5 ,

A 18%(2/11)

가 6 . 2

B

가 . MRI가

9)

5 15%

4,5,13,14)

가 . Liu

2)

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