

## Other terminology

Posted by Louise - 12 Jan 2006 15:04

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Bonjour Doc Sarah,

On my old MRI (2004) it mentions in the lumbar spine, mild loss of disc signal is present at L1-2 through L4-5. Is this the location where the catheter for Depo medrol and Pantopaque were inserted? On the medical reports from previous years, presence of foreign solution is detected.

The MRI also states: there is adherence of the lumbar roots to the lateral aspect of the dural tube from the level of L2 becoming striking at the L3-4,5 and S1 levels.

I am assuming that scar tissues are pretty thick at L3-4-5 and S1.

If so, would that explain problems with constipation?

Would it also explain my inability to empty my bladder completely without pushing out?

Based on all the above, how can it affect the cervical and thoracic area? Does degenerative disorder go hand in hand with AA?

I really appreciate going out of your way to answer my questions. I just cannot bring all this information together. My brain is no longer calibrated properly!

Thank you

Louise

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## Re:Other terminology

Posted by mitsuyo - 09 Mar 2006 17:57

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Dear DocSarah,

I sincerely appreciate the time and effort you put in to respond to my ever-going queries. Your answers have helped me tremendously, and it's so great and comforting to know that there is someone in the medical field who can and will help us understand arachnoiditis better.

In my case, I know I have arachnoiditis as seen in a myelogram with CT. Luckily, my symptoms, though many, are fairly mild. I do know also that I have many other "mechanical" problems in cervical, thoracic and lumbar spines. I also have many symptoms of some of the connective tissue diseases (are they considered autoimmune conditions?) such as Lupus and rheumatoid Arthritis as well as those of Lyme Disease. I went to see a different rheumatologist last week who happened to be a Lyme specialist, as I was urged to do so by my best friend who suffers from chronic Lyme because of so many Lyme symptoms I have.

Interestingly, many of arachnoiditis symptoms are very similar to Lyme symptoms. This doctor even suspects Lyme for me. She also mentioned Undifferentiated Connective Tissue multi system disease needed to be defined.

Also, last week before I saw her, I had another episode of near-fainting two nights in a row, one of which with scary new experience with sudden onset of unusually weak and heavy arms, shoulders and around the neck, then onto nausea, severe vision distortion (no flashing lights or zig-zag lines but just fuzzy bright thing), severe high-pitch ringing in ears, racing heart, and feeling that I was going to pass out. I have had much less scary version several times since last October when I did pass out after vomiting violently for a few times. A Brain MRI was "stable", and an EEG was normal following that episode. This new doctor thought I might have experienced optic migraines (I had no headache all these times) though she wants to review my recent EEG I got after the fainting episode in October to see if she could detect even minor signs of seizures. She gave me Maxalt 10 mg to take at the onset of visual disturbance.

She also wants me to take a baby aspirin every other day to prevent blood clot. Also, she wants me to see a cardiologist to do 24 hour Holter Monitor, since my heart rate can get very fast at resting, which I can feel it and see in my shaking hands/arms with each heart beat.

Well, she ordered a lot of blood tests that day. She is going to explore any possibility of anything, including mercury poisoning and food allergy. During the examination, she mentioned "strep" as well as "septic" arthritis when she saw my red fingers.

Part of me thinks that most of my symptoms are from arachnoiditis and that nothing abnormal will show up in any test. Would this be a possibility that A could cause even these?

But then another part of me thinks (and even hopes) that I do have something else, hopefully something definable besides all my known "mechanical" problems, since my A symptoms are mild and, particularly, I don't know if A could cause all these symptoms (non-mechanical nature) I am experiencing. Does it make sense to you?

That's why, basically, I want to understand as much as possible about Arachnoiditis. I did tell this new doctor that I knew I had Adhesive Arachnoiditis, which could cause so many of the symptoms of Lyme and that I just wanted to rule it out medically (so I wouldn't keep thinking "maybe"). I also told her that I wondered if she could see (and find) something that other doctors might have missed. Maybe they all come from my life-long neck problems, but would that be possible? Any thoughts? I know you don't know all the details of my medical history, but I am hoping that you can point me to something. I guess I can at least go back to all your articles and read them again!

Thanks for caring and listening.

Best Regards,

Mitsuyo

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