

## Tethered spinal cord?

Posted by kev - 15 Apr 2007 08:16

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Hi Doc, haven't seen you around for a while so hope you are doing ok. Can you clarify for me that if by having Adhesive Arachnoiditis, then by definition you also have a tethered spinal cord? I've been trying to research my condition for years and noted that my MRI said 'clumping of nerve roots at L4-L5' 4 years ago. Now if they are clumping (sticking?) and possibly sticking to the sides of the dura? is this tethering? And does tethering cause any notable secondary changes/problems/symptoms?

I ask as if i bend my head forward or lie on my back with a thick pillow under my head i get shooting pains up and down my back and the DR's often refer to me as having a 'Flat back syndrome'. My ortho said my last fusion op took 6 hours instead or about 2 due to the amount of scar tissue he found when he opened me up(this was my 2nd op) but i presume this was outside of the spinal cord but could that cause tethering?.

Kevin

Post edited by: kev, at: 2007/06/12 23:17

Post edited by: kev, at: 2007/08/22 03:23

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## Re:Tethered spinal cord? The Doc replies

Posted by Kim - 03 Oct 2007 03:48

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Hi Kev

Reply is:

It's early days to say whether the endoscopic resection of the scar tissue will work in the medium to long term; the chances are that the adhesions will recur, much as they tend to do with abdominal adhesions. I guess the success rate is probably less than the 50:50 you were quoted for the abdominal problems.

Sorry I can't be more optimistic. I am in contact with a German doc who is doing the endoscopic

procedure so will be sure to keep an eye on his results. Short term they do look quite promising but let's wait and see before we get too carried away.

Regards,

DocSarah

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## Re:Tethered spinal cord? The Doc replies

Posted by kev - 05 Oct 2007 19:08

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We can but hope eh? 🙄

Interesting stuff that about the 'Flat back syndrome', i'm beginning to wonder now if it is the AA, the abdominal adhesions or the FBS that is causing me all the abdominal symptoms now. Also i had attributed all the upper back pain/neck spasms to the AA but possibly this could be the result of the FBS. My surgeon just pawned me off to a pain clinic as soon as he saw the AA claiming he did not know enough about it and he never went into detail about the FBS.

Anyway, thanks again Doc.

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