

OBSERVATION

Examination: MRI Lumbar Spine without Contrast

Clinical indication: Lower back pain.

Findings: Generalized disc space narrowing and disc desiccation are identified throughout the lumbar spine.

At the L2-3 level, moderate degenerative facet hypertrophy is present. Moderate bilateral neural foraminal narrowing is noted. No high grade central spinal stenosis.

At the L3-4 level, a shallow global disc bulge is present with disc desiccation and moderate degenerative facet hypertrophy. Moderate bilateral neural foraminal narrowing is present. No high grade central spinal stenosis.

At the L4-5 level, disc space narrowing and disc desiccation are identified as well as a global disc bulge. Moderate bilateral neural foraminal narrowing is present. No high grade central spinal stenosis.

At the L5-S1 level, vacuum disc phenomenon is present as well as disc space narrowing and disc desiccation. A Grade I anterolisthesis is also identified due to bilateral pars defect. Moderate/severe degenerative facet hypertrophy is present, right greater than left. Also identified is severe bilateral neural foraminal narrowing.

No evidence of disc herniation or extrusion.

The marrow demonstrates numerous foci of hypointense signal abnormality within the L1 vertebral body as well as to a lesser degree within the T12 vertebral body. This is also present within the L5 vertebral body. A small lesion is also noted along the inferior aspect of the L3 vertebral body. These lesions correspond to bright signal on the sagittal STIR imaging sequence. These are favored to represent atypical hemangiomas. These may be further correlated with bone scan or short term follow-up MRI to ensure stability. Schmorl's nodes are noted along the superior end plates of L3 and L2 vertebral bodies. The pre and paravertebral soft tissues are unremarkable.

IMPRESSION

1. Degenerative changes as detailed above.
2. L3-4: Shallow global disc bulge with disc desiccation and moderate bilateral neural foraminal narrowing.
3. L4-5: Disc space narrowing with disc desiccation and global disc bulge. Moderate bilateral neural foraminal narrowing.
4. L5-S1: Disc space narrowing with disc desiccation and vacuum disc phenomenon. A global disc bulge is present as well as a Grade I anterolisthesis. This anterolisthesis is due to bilateral pars defects. Moderate/severe degenerative facet hypertrophy is present, right greater than left. Severe bilateral foraminal narrowing is noted.
5. Foci of signal abnormality within the lumbar marrow as detailed above. These are favored to represent atypical hemangiomas. Further correlation may be obtained with bone scan or short term follow-up MRI to ensure stability. Please see body of report for further details and a level by level analysis.

