

ABSTRACT

Agreement between Cervical radiculopathy symptoms and MRI cervical spine findings- A prospective review

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Background and Purpose

Cervical radiculopathy can result in significant morbidity to the patient. MRI is the preferred modality for imaging this condition. The purpose of this study is to determine the agreement between patients' symptoms and signs of cervical radiculopathy and their MRI findings. We will also determine if MRI is being overused in patients with a provisional diagnosis of cervical radiculopathy.

Method

A prospective cross-sectional study was done using forty eligible patients who had a provisional diagnosis of cervical radiculopathy. The agreement between their clinical signs and symptoms of cervical radiculopathy and their MRI findings was determined.

Results

Low sensitivity (31.4%) and positive predictive value (47.9%); and high specificity (89.5%) and negative predictive value (79.6%) were observed.

Conclusion

The diagnostic accuracy of cervical radiculopathy can be increased by adding special clinical examination tests and electrophysiological studies. This may reduce the over diagnosis of cervical radiculopathy, increase positive predictive values and sensitivities and result in direct financial savings to the patients.