

Cervical ossification of the posterior longitudinal ligament classification

The Investigation Committee for Ossification of the Spinal Ligaments (part of the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare) developed a classification system for cervical OPLL comprising 4 types:

- (1) continuous: a long lesion extending over several vertebral bodies
- (2) segmental: one or several separate lesions behind the vertebral bodies
- (3) mixed: a combination of the continuous and segmental types
- (4) localized (focal or circumscribed): located mainly just behind a disc space, ossification surrounding intervertebral disc herniation.

The frequency of each type has been reported as continuous, 25.97%; segmental, 34.26%; mixed, 32.47%; and localized, 7.30% ¹⁾.

other variants: includes a rare type of OPLL that is contiguous with the endplates and is confined to the disc space (involves focal hypertrophy of the PLL with punctate [calcification](#))

¹⁾

Tetreault L, Nakashima H, Kato S, et al. A systematic review of classification systems for cervical ossification of the posterior longitudinal ligament. *Global Spine J* 2019;9:85-103.

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