

Charcot arthropathy

see also [Charcot spinal arthropathy](#).

Also called [Charcot joint](#) or neuropathic joint, Charcot [arthropathy](#) is a progressive condition of the musculoskeletal system that is characterized by joint dislocations, pathologic fractures, and debilitating deformities. Syphilis was believed to be the most common cause of Charcot arthropathy until 1936, when Jordan linked it to diabetes.

Charcot arthropathy, also known as Neuropathic arthropathy (NA), is an unusual chronic [degenerative disease](#). To date, there exists a paucity of research on NA caused by [syringomyelia](#).

A 52-year-old non-diabetic female presented with progressive swelling, pain and limited movement in her left [shoulder](#) joint combined with [asthenia](#) of her left upper extremity for three months.

Neuropathic arthropathy of the shoulder associated with the cervicothoracic [syrinx](#) and [basilar impressions](#) was diagnosed.

The [treatment](#) is directed to its potential cause to cease its progression. A [posterior fossa decompression](#) (PFD) was conducted for this patient.

Postoperatively, the patient's [symptoms](#) were relieved and the size of syrinx was reduced at the 6-month follow-up.

Taken together with 34 previous reports identified from a [PubMed](#) search, an analysis of 35 cases of Charcot arthropathy was conducted. Surgical decompression is an effective treatment, but the optimal treatment remains controversial. Thus, the aim of a [literature review](#) was to remind us to diagnose the potential cause as early as possible and we should spare no efforts on the [exploration](#) of [etiology](#) and adjuvant therapy for this disease ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Wang X, Li Y, Gao J, Wang T, Li Z. Charcot arthropathy of the shoulder joint as a presenting feature of basilar impression with syringomyelia: A case report and literature review. Medicine (Baltimore). 2018 Jul;97(28):e11391. doi: 10.1097/MD.00000000000011391. PubMed PMID: 29995782.

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