

Claw sign

Modic type 1 degenerative signal changes can mimic/suggest infection, leading to additional costly and sometimes invasive investigations.

A retrospective study analyzes the utility and accuracy of a novel, diffusion-weighted “claw sign” for distinguishing symptomatic type 1 degeneration from vertebral diskitis/osteomyelitis.



In patients with type 1 signal changes of the vertebral disk space, a claw sign is highly suggestive of degeneration and its absence strongly suggests diskitis/osteomyelitis ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Patel KB, Poplawski MM, Pawha PS, Naidich TP, Tanenbaum LN. Diffusion-weighted MRI “claw sign” improves differentiation of infectious from degenerative modic type 1 signal changes of the spine. *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol*. 2014 Aug;35(8):1647-52. doi: 10.3174/ajnr.A3948. Epub 2014 Apr 17. PubMed PMID: 24742801.

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