

Destructive lesions of the spine

Etiologies

1. neoplastic; see Differential diagnosis: spine & [spinal cord tumors](#) for more:

a) metastatic tumors with a predilection for bone: prostate, breast, renal cell, lymphoma, thyroid, lung...; see [Spinal epidural metastases](#).

b) primary bone tumors: [chordomas](#), osteoid osteoma, [hemangioma](#)

2. infection:

a) vertebral osteomyelitis: occurs mostly in IV drug abusers, patients with diabetes mellitus, and hemodialysis patients. May have associated spinal epidural abscess. Also see [Vertebral osteomyelitis](#)

b) [Discitis](#)

3. [chronic renal failure](#): some patients develop a destructive spondyloarthropathy that resembles infection^{11,12}

4. [ankylosing spondylitis](#): bamboo spine (square VBs with bridging syndesmophytes)

5. lesions producing posterior scalloping of VB (mnemonic: AMEN)

A [acromegaly](#) or [achondroplasia](#)

M Marfan syndrome or mucopolysaccharidosis

E Ehlers-Danlos

N neurofibromatosis

also: [dural ectasia](#)

6. lesions producing anterior scalloping of VB

a) aortic aneurysm

b) lymphoma

c) spinal TB

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