

# □ Epidural Spinal Cord Compression (ESCC) Classification

The ESCC grading system, developed by Bilsky et al., is based on axial T2-weighted MRI and describes the extent of tumor compression on the thecal sac and spinal cord.

## □ Grading Scale

Grade	Description
0	Bone-only disease (no epidural involvement)
1a	Tumor extends into the epidural space without displacing the dura
1b	Dura displaced, no spinal cord contact
1c	Spinal cord contact without deformation
2	Spinal cord compression with CSF visible around the cord
3	Spinal cord compression with <b>no visible CSF</b> around the cord

## □ Clinical Significance

**Grades 2-3** = High-grade compression → Often require **surgical decompression** before SBRT to avoid radiation myelopathy and ensure local control.

\* **Grades 0-1c** → Typically amenable to SBRT alone, depending on tumor histology and stability. \*

**Grade 2** → Early deformation, CSF still visible → possible candidate for SBRT in radiosensitive tumors.

\* **Grade 3** → Complete obliteration of CSF space → often mandates **separation surgery**.

## □ Imaging Modality

\* Based on **T2-weighted axial MRI** \* Evaluate the **relationship between tumor, dura, and spinal cord** \* Must be assessed at each involved level for accurate planning

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