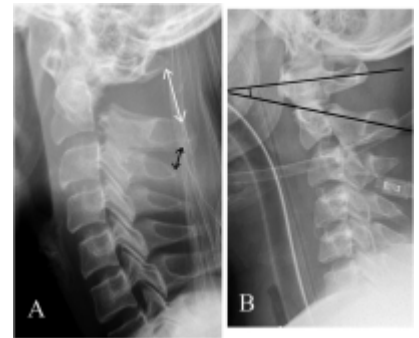


Interspinous distance



Anterior [dislocation](#) of the [cervical spine](#) may be detected reliably in the [supine](#) frontal projection by evaluating the cervical [spinous processes](#). A widened [interspinous distance](#) (ISD) which measures more than one and one-half times the ISD above and more than one and one-half times the ISD below indicates the presence of an [anterior cervical dislocation](#) at the level of abnormal widening. Measurements of the interspinous distances from the [C3-C4](#) interval through the [C7-T1](#) interval in 500 patients with normal [cervical spines](#) and in 14 patients with documented anterior cervical dislocations revealed neither [false positive](#) nor false-negative diagnoses by these criteria ¹⁾.

On plain radiographs, a decrease of 50 percent in [vertebral body height](#), an increase of [interspinous distance](#), and greater than 30 to 35 degrees of [kyphotic deformity](#) are suggestive of [posterior ligament complex injury](#).

¹⁾

Naidich JB, Naidich TP, Garfein C, Liebeskind AL, Hyman RA. The widened interspinous distance: a useful sign of anterior cervical dislocation in the supine frontal projection. *Radiology*. 1977 Apr;123(1):113-6. PubMed PMID: 847132.

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