

Intradural extramedullary spinal tumor

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While [intradural](#) extramedullary spinal disease varies widely, identification of tumors in this location and their radiologic manifestations greatly facilitates narrowing of the diagnostic considerations.

Epidemiology

[Spinal meningioma](#) and [spinal schwannoma](#) are the two most common intradural extramedullary spinal tumors, and both are associated with [neurofibromatosis](#).

Classification

see [Intradural extramedullary spinal tumor differential diagnosis](#).

Clinical features

Symptoms Related to Compression and Mass Effect

1. **Pain:** The most common initial symptom, often localized or radicular, worsens at night or with Valsalva maneuvers.
2. **Radiculopathy:** Due to nerve root compression, causing dermatomal pain, paresthesia, or weakness.
3. **Myelopathy:** If the tumor compresses the spinal cord, leading to progressive weakness, spasticity, and sensory disturbances.

Motor and Sensory Deficits

1. **Weakness:** Initially subtle, progressing to significant paresis or paralysis.
2. **Hypoesthesia or Hyperesthesia:** Segmental sensory loss or dysesthesia depending on the affected level.

3. **Gait Ataxia:** Common in cervical and thoracic lesions due to corticospinal tract involvement.
4. **Bowel and Bladder Dysfunction:** Especially with tumors in the thoracolumbar region causing sphincter disturbances.

Specific Features by Tumor Type

1. **Meningiomas:** More common in middle-aged women, slow-growing, causing gradual myelopathy.
2. **Schwannomas & Neurofibromas:** Typically present with radicular pain, can be part of **NF2** or sporadic.
3. **Ependymomas (Myxopapillary in the filum terminale):** Associated with cauda equina syndrome and lower extremity weakness.

Late-Stage Findings

1. **Severe Motor Impairment:** Progressive paraplegia or quadriplegia.
 2. **Loss of Reflexes:** Depending on the level of compression (hyperreflexia if upper motor neuron, hyporeflexia if lower motor neuron).
 3. **Autonomic Dysfunction:** Including erectile dysfunction and urinary retention.
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Diagnosis

[Intradural extramedullary spinal tumor diagnosis.](#)

Differential Diagnosis

[Intradural extramedullary spinal tumor differential diagnosis](#)

Case series

[Intradural extramedullary spinal tumor case series.](#)

Treatment

[Intradural extramedullary spinal tumor treatment.](#)

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