Spinal cystic tumor

An MRI has been considered as the best tool to investigate the spinal cystic tumor. Generally, schwannomas appears as hypointensity on T1-weighted MR images and heterogenous intensity on T2-weighted MR images, based on the different components within the schwannoma [1].

The hypointensity on T2-weighted MR images often correspond to hemorrhage, dense cellularity or collagen deposition, whereas hyperintensity may represent cystic changes [2].

The radiological differential diagnosis of spinal cystic tumor includes a cystic neurinoma, ependymoma, neurenteric cyst, epidermoid, bronchogenic cyst, cystic teratoma, Tarlov cyst, and arachnoid cyst [3] [4]

A contrast study is preferred to differentiate schwannoma from other neoplasms. Rim enhancement of an intradural extramedullary tumor on MRI should be considered as the diagnosis of schwannoma.

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