

Spinal meningocele

A spinal meningocele is a herniation of meninges through bone defects or foramina to form a CSF-filled sac. An acquired meningocele is a comparatively common laminectomy complication, whereas congenital meningocele is a relatively rare developmental anomaly ¹⁾.

Spinal [meningeal cysts](#) are diverticula of the [arachnoid](#) or [dura mater](#) or of the nerve root [sheath](#). They are uncommon, usually asymptomatic, and typically found incidentally on MRI.

Classification

[Spinal meningeal cyst classification.](#)

[Anterior sacral meningocele](#)

Clinical presentation

The cysts are usually asymptomatic, but if they are large, they may cause mass effects and symptoms relating to compression of local structures, e.g. nerve roots.

CSF pulsation can also remodel the surrounding bone, e.g. sacral canal.

Pathology

The cysts contain CSF and have thin walls. They may be intradural or extradural and may contain neural tissue. The spinal meningeal cyst classification uses these features to separate the different type of cysts.

Associations

They have been occasionally associated with patients with connective tissue disorders such as :

[Marfan syndrome](#)

[Ehlers-Danlos syndrome](#)

[Loeys-Dietz syndrome](#)

[Sjögren syndrome](#)

¹⁾

Gutierrez FR, Woodard PK, Fleishman MJ, et al. Normal anatomy and congenital anomalies of the spine and spinal cord. In: Osborn AG, Maack H, eds. Diagnostic neuroradiology. 1st ed. St. Louis:

Mosby;1994 :785-819

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