

Plain films (more common in [infections](#) anterior to dura). Look for lytic lesions, [demineralization](#), and scalloping of [endplates](#) (may take 4–6 weeks after onset of infection).

Changes take from 2–8 weeks from the onset of infection to develop. Earliest changes are loss of cortical [endplate](#) margins and loss of [disc space height](#).

In patients with suspected [spine infection](#), [ADC](#) values on [DWI](#) are significantly reduced in those patients with positive microbiological sampling compared to patients with negative microbiological sampling. The DWI of the spine correlates well with the presence or absence of spinal infection and may complement conventional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Dumont RA, Keen NN, Bloomer CW, Schwartz BS, Talbott J, Clark AJ, Wilson DM, Chin CT. Clinical Utility of Diffusion-Weighted Imaging in Spinal Infections. Clin Neuroradiol. 2019 Sep;29(3):515-522. doi: 10.1007/s00062-018-0681-5. Epub 2018 Mar 26. PubMed PMID: 29582111; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6158113.

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