

## Traumatic Thoracic Disc Rupture : A Case report

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### INTRODUCTION:

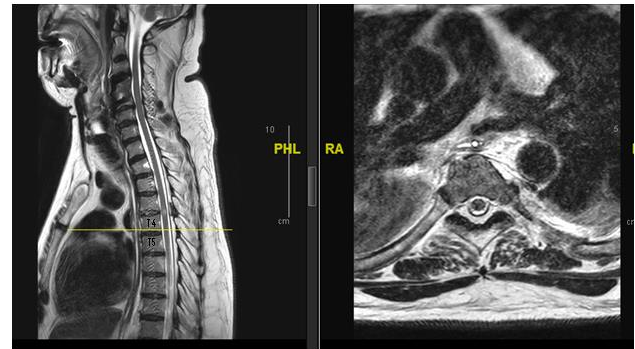
Thoracic disc rupture are rare and traumatic pathologies in the thoracic region are usually associated with structural problems in the bone, such as fractures. We present a case of traumatic thoracic disc rupture with ligamentous injury whom dislocation of the posterior spine or fracture did not occur.

### REPORT:

A 53 years old male had a motorvehicle accident with unknown mechanism of injury. He was brought to hospital and upon arrival he was less conscious with Glasgow Coma Scale E3V2M4. Neurological examination was incomplete as patient was less conscious. He required intubation for airway protection and underwent urgent whole body computed tomography (CT Scan) which includes brain, cervical, thorax, abdomen and pelvis. Apart from brain and chest injuries, imaging also revealed suspicious of thoracic T4/T5 discal rupture with air pockets at perivertebral and intraspinal region from T3 to T5/T6 level. Emergency spinal magnetic resonance (MR) imaging demonstrated T4/T5 intervertebral disc rupture with anterior longitudinal ligament disruption and focal spinal cord oedema. Patient admitted under intensive care unit (ICU) and was treated with tapering dose of intravenous Dexamethasone. He underwent posterior spinal instrumentation and fusion (PSIF) from T4 to T6 thoracic region with pedicle screws. Postoperatively, the patient recovered sensory function mainly but no improvement in motor function was noted. Patient was transferred to rehabilitation ward for subsequent care.



**Figure 1: CT imaging of thoracic T4-T5 region**



**Figure 2: MRI imaging of thoracic T4-T5 region showing disc rupture**

### CONCLUSION:

Thoracic disc rupture account for roughly 0.25–0.75% of all spinal disc ruptures and it is rare. MR imaging is the study of choice in patients who have sustained a traumatic spinal cord injury.

### REFERENCES:

1. Fuentes S, Metellus P, Dufour H, Grisoli F. Traumatic thoracic disc herniation. Case illustration. *J Neurosurg.* 2001
2. Rahimizadeh A, Acute traumatic sequestered thoracic disc herniation: A case report and review. *Surg Neurol Int.* 2021