

79 y/o female presenting with left L5 radiculopathy

Andrew Klufas, MD MBA
Leo Wolansky, MD

MR T1



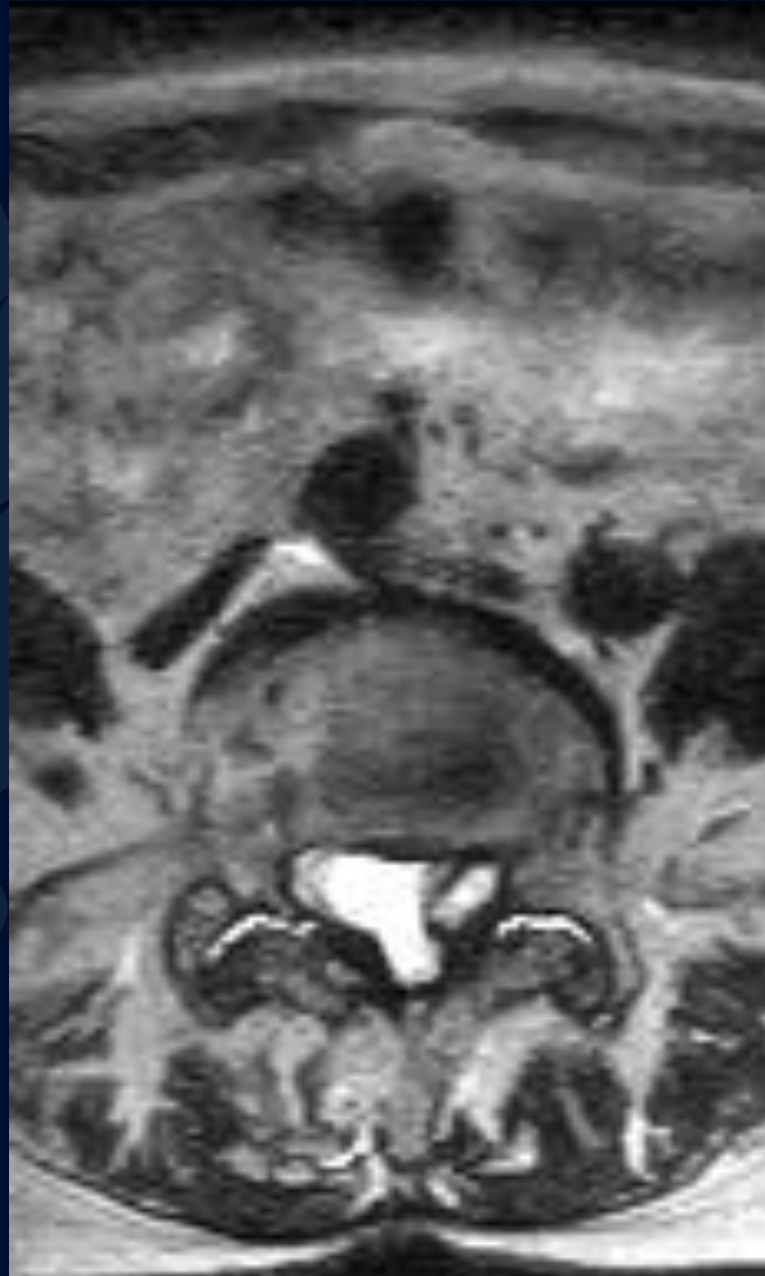
MR T2



MR T2



MR T1





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A large, stylized oak leaf graphic in a dark blue color, positioned on the left side of the slide. The leaf has a prominent central vein and several smaller veins branching off it. The background is a solid dark blue.

Synovial Cyst

T1



T2

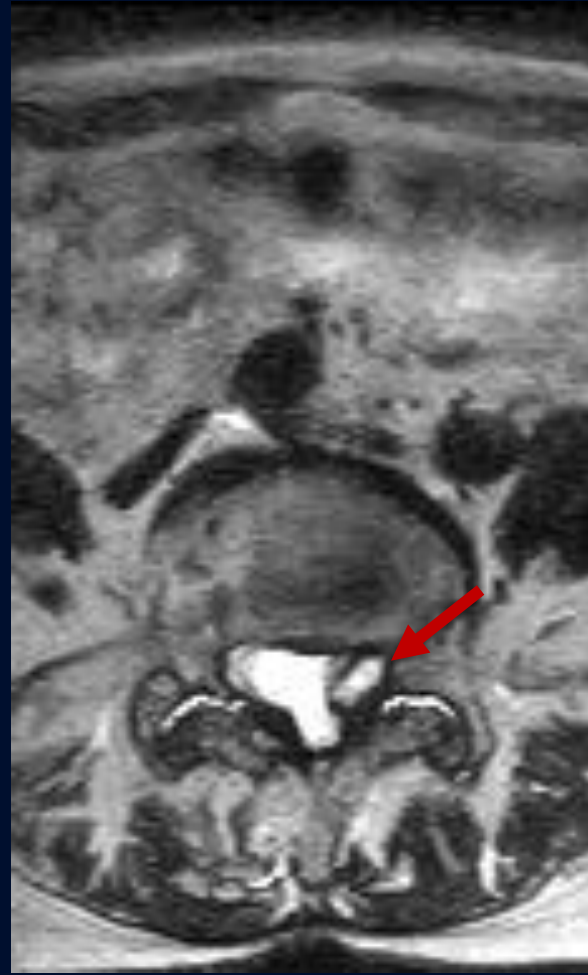


Rounded lesion at the level of L4-5 facet is isointense to muscle and disc on T1 sequence and hyperintense with hypointense rim on T2 sequence

T2



T2



Rounded lesion at the level of L4-5 facet is hyperintense with hypointense rim on T2 sequence

Spinal Synovial Cyst

Clinical Presentation:

- Can be asymptomatic, however may present with sciatica, lower extremity weakness, and sensory loss

Imaging Characteristics

- Predominantly in the lumbar spine > cervical or thoracic spine
- Gas within the cyst is pathognomonic for a synovial cyst
- MRI
 - T1: Hypo-intense in comparison to surrounding muscle and disc
 - T2: Hyper-intense lesion with hypointense rim
 - Hypo-intensity is due to hemosiderin deposition in the synovial capsule

Synovial Cyst Formation

- Spinal synovial cysts form around the facet joints
- Tend to form ventrally as the facet joint only has a capsule dorsally

References

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