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Massive lumbar pneumorrhachis after severe cranial trauma

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A 25-year-old man was referred to our Emergency Department with motor vehicle accident. His mental state was confused. There was no traumatic wound of the spinal column. Computed tomography (CT) was performed. CT images show massive lumbar pneumorrhachis and pneumocephalus (**Figure 1**). In our case, air in the cranium probably spreaded along the subarachnoid space, thus eventually it appeared in the spinal canal. Pneumorrhachis is typically benign condition and resolves with conservative therapies. However, pneumorrhachis can cause symptoms of cord compression. Therefore, early diagnosis and follow-up is important (1).

References

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Figure Legends

Figure 1: Sagittal CT image (left) shows massive lumbar pneumorrhachis and axial CT image (right) shows pneumocephalus.