

IMAGES OF SPINE CARE

Late cervical traumatic spondylolisthesis

A 40-year-old man complained about neck pain and limitation of cervical spine after a traffic accident. No neurologic deficit was found. No fracture or spondylolisthesis was found in the plain radiograph (Fig. 1). After treatment by hard collar for 8 weeks, he was totally free of neck pain and limitation of cervical spine. However, after 1 year, he came back and complained about neck pain and stiff and anesthesia of limbs. Physical examination showed spasm of limbs. Plain radiograph showed C4–C5 cervical spondylolisthesis (Fig. 2), and magnetic resonance imaging showed C4–C5 cervical spondylolisthesis, and the spinal cord was compressed severely (Fig. 3). And then, he underwent a reduction and fixation surgery of C4–C5 through the

anterior approach (Fig. 4). The patient returned to his normal work free of symptoms 3 months after surgery.

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FDA device/drug status: Not applicable.

Author disclosures: **D-GH**: Nothing to disclose. **D-JH**: Nothing to disclose.

Q-NW: Nothing to disclose. **J-SY**: Nothing to disclose. **Y-TZ**: Nothing to disclose.



Fig. 1. No fracture or spondylolisthesis was found in the plain radiograph.



Fig. 2. Plain radiograph showed C4–C5 cervical spondylolisthesis 1 year later.

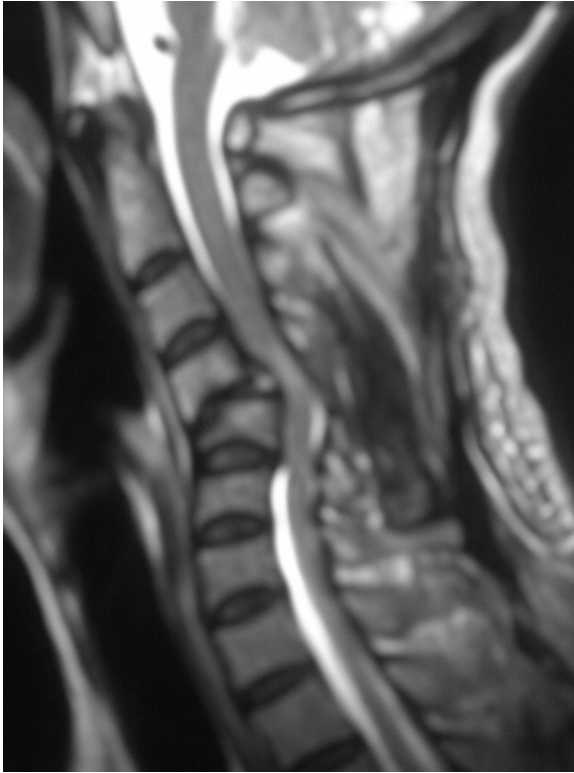


Fig. 3. Magnetic resonance imaging showed C4–C5 cervical spondylolisthesis, and the spinal cord was compressed severely.

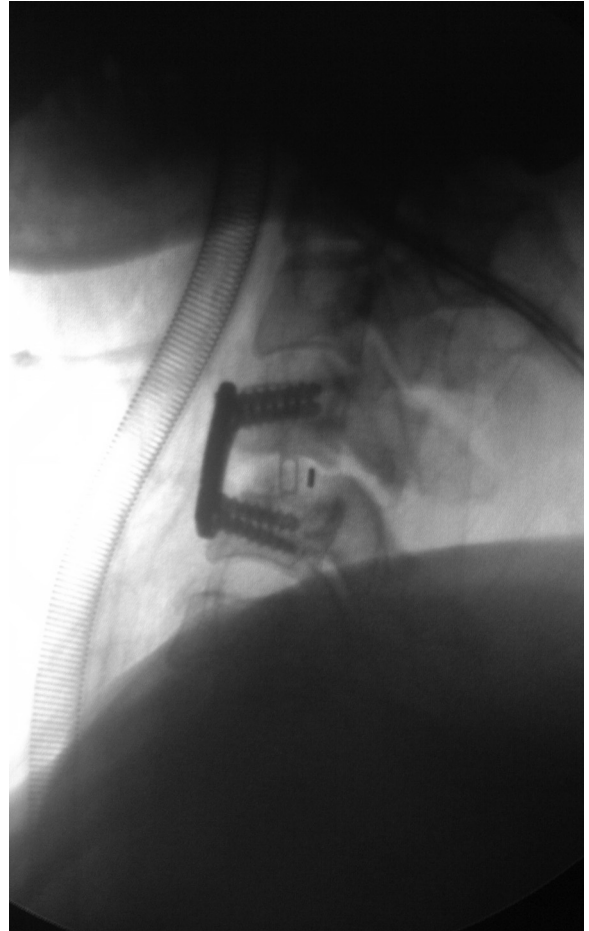


Fig. 4. Reduction and fixation of C4–C5 through the anterior approach.