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The Thick and Thin of Meningeal Carcinomatosis

P. R. S. Kishore

AJNR Am J Neuroradiol 1980, 1 (5) 418

<http://www.ajnr.org/content/1/5/418.citation>

This information is current as
of July 20, 2025.

Letters

The Thick and Thin of Meningeal Carcinomatosis

The case report by Kim et al. [1] in the March/April 1980 *AJNR* describing meningeal carcinomatosis claims that "this form of metastasis has not been previously reported."

A comprehensive review article on the subject that involved 50 patients with meningeal carcinomatosis was published 6 years ago [2]. In that article, seven of 18 patients underwent myelography and showed multiple nodular defects including concentric narrowing of the subarachnoid space.

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REFERENCES

1. Kim KS, Weinberg PE, Hemmati M. Spinal pachymeningeal carcinomatosis: myelographic features. *AJNR* 1980;1:199-200
2. Olson ME, Chernik NL, Posner JB. Infiltration of the leptomeninges by systemic cancer. *Arch Neurol* 1974;30:122-137

Reply

The article to which Dr. Kishore refers reviews infiltration of *leptomeninges* by systemic cancer, not infiltration of the *meninges* or certainly not *pachymeninges*.

In our introduction, we said that there were four types of metastases in the spine: (1) epidural; (2) intradural (nodular form); (3) leptomeningeal carcinomatosis (diffuse sheetlike infiltration of the pia-arachnoid); and (4) pachymeningeal carcinomatosis (diffuse sheetlike infiltration of the pachymeninges).

The article mentioned by Dr. Kishore refers to cases in category 3 and possibly category 4. We have experienced two cases of pure leptomeningeal carcinomatosis in the lumbar region (lymphomatous and leukemic infiltration). We believe that the myelographic features of each category are distinct from one another. We are still unable to find any previous report of spinal *pachymeningeal* carcinomatosis.

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