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CASE 4

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A man of 71 admitted with a six months' history of increasing numbness and pain in the perianal and gluteal area without radiation to the lower extremities. For two months before admission he had urinary difficulties, with retention five days prior to admission. Numbness of penis and scrotum was also noted. On examination, there was diffuse weakness of all muscles of both thighs, hypoesthesia of penis, scrotum and perianal area; absent rectal sphincter tone; absent right knee jerk and both ankle jerks. Myelogram showed a block at L₂ and L₃.

Laminectomy was performed at L_{2,3,4} with gross total removal of a well encapsulated intradural extramedullary tumor, together with two nerve roots which could not be dissected from the tumor. The specimen was a mass of firm rubbery tissue measuring 3.8 x 1.9 x 1.4 cm. in its greatest dimensions, weighing 8.3 gms. The tissue was variegated yellow and brown, with firm yellow and gray cut surfaces interlaced with brownish strands.