

CASE 2001-10

Submitted by:

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Clinical History:

The patient is a 17 year-old woman who is 2 months post partum who had right toe numbness and tingling three weeks prior to admission. Her sensory symptoms progressed rostrally up to the perineum and eventually crossed over to the left lower extremity. She presented to the hospital with gait difficulty and worsening lower back pain. During her evaluation, she developed sudden onset of paraplegia and urinary incontinence. MRI of the spine the next day showed a large expansive heterogeneously enhancing intramedullary mass with central necrosis involving the distal thoracic cord extending from the level of T11 to L1. MRI of the head showed no abnormalities. She underwent a biopsy two days later then subsequent resection of this mass 11 days later.

Necropsy findings: Not applicable.

Material submitted: Kodachrome of cross section of spinal cord.

H&E section of spinal cord.

Points for discussion:

1. Diagnosis.
2. Role of intraoperative consultation.
3. Effectiveness of procedure.