

## 51st ANNUAL DIAGNOSTIC SLIDE SESSION 2010

### CASE 2010-2

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#### Clinical History:

A 68-year-old male presented in April of 2004 with pain in the mid-thorax radiating around his right side, and unsteadiness of gait. Examination revealed a T6 sensory level and spastic paraparesis. Bowel and bladder function was intact. Thoracic MRI demonstrated an erosive extradural lesion involving the right 6<sup>th</sup> rib and vertebra with compression of the spinal cord. The patient underwent thoracic laminectomy and removal of the epidural mass which demonstrated what was diagnosed as a CPPD crystalline disease versus hydroxyapatite deposition. There was subsequent improvement in gait and balance after the laminectomy.

Approximately 1.5 years later, the patient had return of his symptoms and increasing axial back pain. MRI demonstrated a progression of the boney involvement with a new epidural component encasing and compressing the spinal cord and extending into the paraspinal tissues on the right side. A radical excision of the entire process via a posterior approach was performed.

Material submitted: H&E section of lesion and unstained section

Points for discussion: 1. Diagnosis  
2. Pathogenesis