

MRI LUMBAR SPINE AND SI JOINTS

Clinical Details: Chronic lower back pain with restricted flexion. Left-sided sciatica.

Technique: Sagittal and axial sequences through the lumbar spine. Coronal and axial sequences through the sacroiliac joints.

Findings: There is a transitional lumbosacral segment. There is sacralisation of L5. There are enlarged transverse processes which are fused with the sacral ala. There is a vestigial disc. T12 is taken as the last vertebral body with ribs. Please see saved key image for spinal level labelling.

At the L4-5 level there is disc desiccation and there is a broad-based disc bulge. This results in canal stenosis and bilateral lateral recess narrowing, more marked on the left side. There is impingement upon the descending S1 nerves, greater on the left.

At the remaining levels there are no degenerative changes. There is no disc herniation, canal stenosis or foraminal narrowing.

The sacroiliac joints are normal. There is no periarticular oedema. There are no erosions.

There is no paraspinal abnormality.

Conclusion: Transitional lumbosacral segment. At L4-5 there is canal stenosis and bilateral lateral recess narrowing with impingement upon the descending S1 nerves, greater on the left side.

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