Spinal Dural Arteriovenous Fistula: Diagnosis and Treatment

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ABSTRACT

Spinal dural arteriovenous (AV) fistulas are the most commonly encountered vascular malformation of the spinal cord and a treatable cause for progressive paraplegia or tetraplegia. They most commonly affect elderly men and are classically found in the thoracolumbar region.

Symptoms gradually progress or decline in a stepwise manner and are commonly associated with pain and sphincter disturbances.

Surgical or endovascular disconnection of the fistula has a high success rate with a low rate of morbidity. Motor symptoms are most likely to improve after treatment, followed by sensory disturbances, and lastly sphincter disturbances.