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Transient pressure changes in the vertebral canal during
 whiplash motion – a hydrodynamic modeling approach

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5 Abstract

In vehicle collisions, the occupant's torso is accelerated in a given direction 6 while the unsupported head tends to lag behind. This mechanism results in 7 whiplash motion to the neck. In whiplash experiments conducted for animals, 8 pressure transients have been recorded in the spinal canal. It was hypoth-9 esized that the transients caused dorsal root ganglion dysfunction. Neck 10 motion introduces volume changes inside the vertebral canal. The changes 11 require an adaptation which is likely achieved by redistribution of blood 12 volume in the internal vertebral venous plexus (IVVP). Pressure transients 13 then arise from the rapid redistribution. The present study aimed to explore 14 the hypothesis theoretically and analytically. Further, the objectives were 15 to quantify the effect of the neck motion on the pressure generation and to 16 identify the physical factors involved. We developed a hydrodynamic system 17 of tubes that represent the IVVP and its lateral intervertebral vein connec-18 tions. An analytical model was developed for an anatomical geometrical 19 relation that the venous blood volume changes with respect to the vertebral 20 angular displacement. This model was adopted in the hydrodynamic tube 21 system so that the system can predict the pressure transients on the basis of 22

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