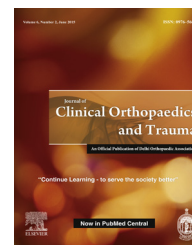


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Case Report

Contiguous multiple cervicothoracic spinous process fractures in an adult: A case report

Gaurav Kumar Upadhyaya MS, Ajay Shukla MS, Vijay Kumar Jain MS*, Skand Sinha MS, R.K. Arya MS, Ananta Kumar Naik MS

Department of Orthopedics, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi 110001, India

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 23 June 2014

Accepted 24 April 2015

Available online 3 July 2015

Keywords:

Spinous process

Clay shoveler's fracture

Multiple

Magnetic resonance imaging

ABSTRACT

Fracture of isolated spinous processes at multiple levels is a rare injury. Herein, we present a 45-year-old male with cervical pain and swelling following a road traffic accident. Computerized tomography and magnetic resonance imaging revealed fractures of spinous process from C7 to D6 vertebra. The patient was managed with rest, analgesics and immobilization. At the 1-year follow-up, the patient is doing well without any neurological problem.

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1. Introduction

Fractures of isolated spinous processes of cervical and thoracic vertebrae are called as Clay shoveler's fracture.^{1–3} These are the avulsion type of injury due to stress on the interspinous ligaments attached to the spinous process. These injuries are rare and usually occur due to trauma or as stress fractures in sports-related injuries.^{4,5} These injuries are usually stable and treated by conservative means. In this report, we present a case of contiguous multiple cervicothoracic spinous process fractures in an adult with associated extradural hematoma treated conservatively.

2. Case report

A 45-year-old male was presented to the emergency department with cervical pain and swelling following a road traffic accident due to fall from a motorcycle resulting in collision of neck on road. The pain was severe in intensity and was localized to lower cervical and upper dorsal region. There was no history of radiating pain in upper limbs. There was no history of loss of consciousness, bleeding from ear, nose or throat, and vomiting. On examination patient had tenderness and diffuse swelling at lower cervical and upper dorsal spine. There was no neurological deficit and bladder and bowel

* Corresponding author at: Chief Medical Officer, PGIMER, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi 110001, India. Tel.: +91 9968277722; fax: +91 011 23361164.

E-mail address: drvijayortho@gmail.com (V.K. Jain).

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jcot.2015.04.010>

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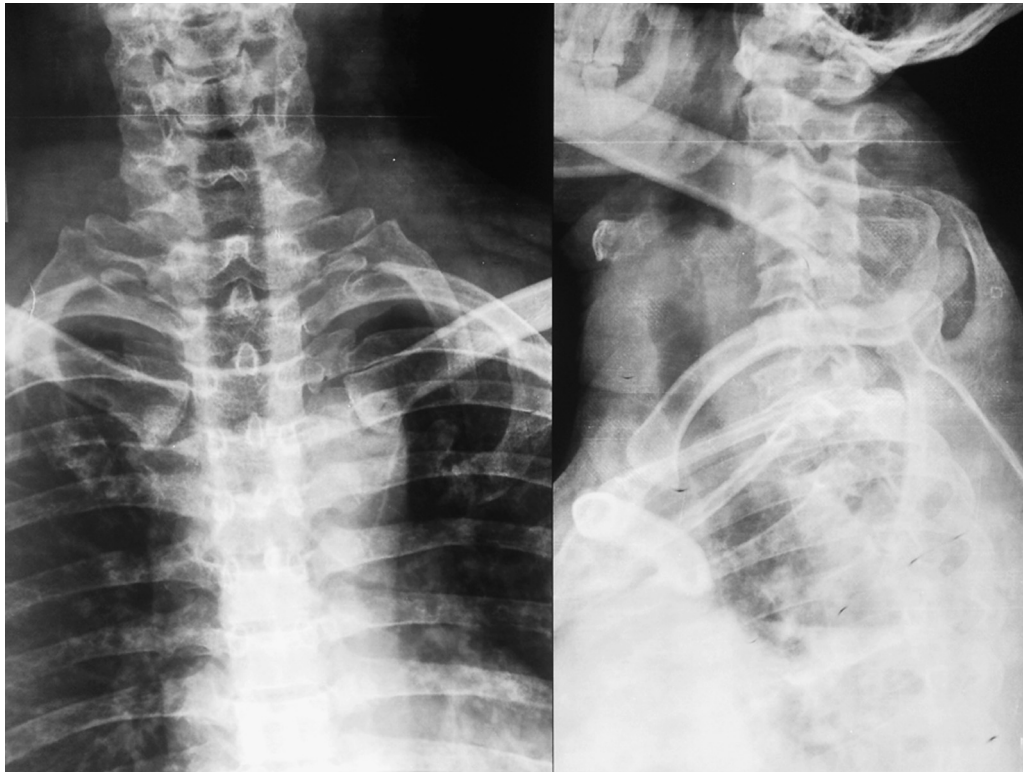
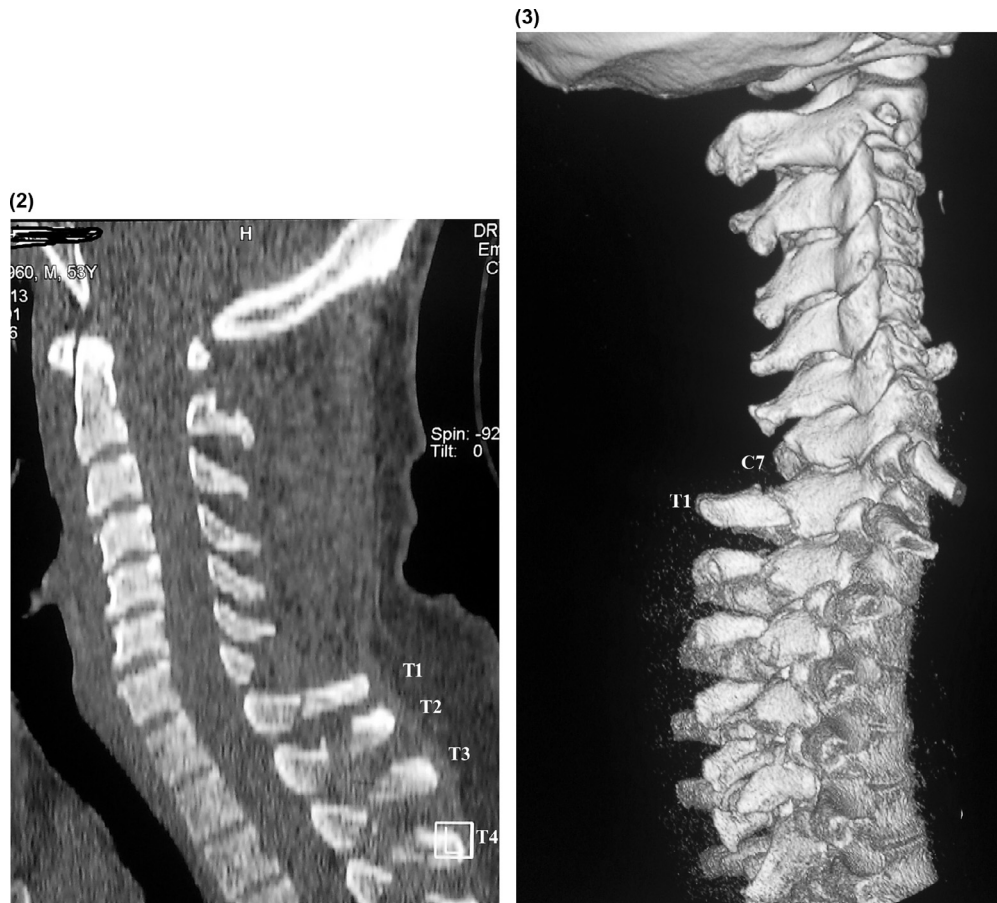


Fig. 1 – Radiograph of cervicothoracic spine showing loss of spinous process of C7 vertebra.



Figs. 2 and 3 – CT sagittal view and reconstruction of cervicothoracic spine showing fracture of spinous process at multiple levels.

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