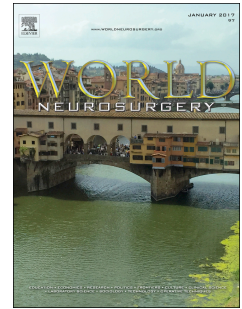


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Unexpected Persistent Dentocentral Synchondrosis of C2

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Abstract

Background: The persistence of synchondrosis in adulthood can confound diagnostic decisions made during patient management.

Case Description: A 59-year-old woman who presented neck pain, acute headache, and acute cervical myelopathy symptoms after suffering whiplash grade 3 in a car rear-end impact underwent a conventional radiological study that revealed no fracture, and no anatomic spine variations. The magnetic resonance imaging study revealed no spinal cord intensity signal changes, but it showed a persistent (remnant) dentocentral synchondrosis (DS) that was undetected in a previous conventional radiographic evaluation.

Conclusions: The localization and level of the remnant of the dentocentral synchondrosis is extremely important from the clinical viewpoint because of odontoid and C2 fractures. Neurosurgeons should thus be aware of the possible presence of a persistent (remnant) C2 dentocentral synchondrosis in adult subjects in order to avoid misdiagnosis with C2 fracture.

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