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Abbreviations: MEP, motor-evoked potential; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; PNETs, primitive neuroectodermal tumors; POD, post-operative day; SSEP, somatosensory-evoked potential; STIR, short tau inversion recovery.

ABSTRACT

Background: Spinal lipomas are generally thought to occur as a result of failed primary neurulation. Failed primary neurulation allows invasion of mesenchymal tissue of mesodermic origin into the neural structure, leading to the formation of a spinal lipoma. Despite most spinal lipomas being regarded as the result of failed primary neurulation, some confusion in terms of the embryogenesis of spinal lipomas remains. Recently, a novel classification of spinal lipomas based on embryonic changes seen during primary and secondary neurulation was has been proposed.

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