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NEUROLOGICAL PICTURE

A giant cauda equina ependymoma

Sagittal T1 (1997) weighted image showing a large tumour arising from the end of the conus filling the whole of the lumbar spine and sacrum.

A 52 year old man presented with slowly progressive signs of a cauda equina lesion. He was incontinent for urine and faeces and could not walk without the aid of a crutch.

In 1960 a sacral biopsy had demonstrated a mixed papillary ependymoma. Despite increasing pain and tumour growth, the patient has always refused surgery.

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