

The Critical Role of MRI in Early Detection of Spinal Tumors Highlighted in Recent Chiropractic Case Study

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NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, February 14, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A new case study published in the [Cureus Medical Journal](#) brings to public attention the critical role of MRI scans in diagnosing serious spine-related issues early. The Chiropractic Doctors' Association of Hong Kong (CDAHK) shares this news to raise awareness among families about the potential signs of underlying health problems that could be mistaken for regular back pain.

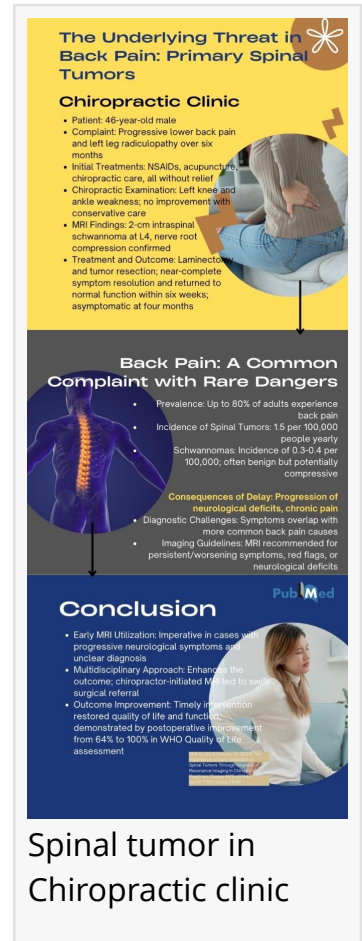
What Happened:

A 46-year-old man experienced lower back pain and weakness in his leg for six months, which did not improve with common treatments like painkillers, physiotherapy, and even chiropractic care. It was an MRI scan that finally revealed the true cause: a small tumor on his spine, known as a schwannoma. Thanks to the MRI finding, the man underwent successful surgery and recovered quickly. This story highlights why MRI scans can be life-saving, especially when standard checks don't find anything wrong.

"Sometimes, what seems like regular back pain can be a sign of something more serious. An MRI can find problems that X-rays or physical exams might miss", described by Dr Eric Chun-Pu Chu, Chairman of CDAHK. Chu was named as "The Most Prolific Authors of Chiropractic Case Reports" in the Chiropractic & Manual Therapies and as one of the "World's Most Prodigious Authors" by the World Federation of Chiropractic's World Quarterly Report.

"If there are unusual symptoms like numbness or weakness, an MRI can help catch serious issues early, leading to better treatment options", described by Dr Sharon Mok, lead author of the study at [New York Medical Group](#).

Working Together for Health: Doctors, including chiropractors, should work hand in hand with



The Underlying Threat in Back Pain: Primary Spinal Tumors

Chiropractic Clinic

- Patient: 46-year-old male
- Complaint: Progressive lower back pain and left leg radiculopathy over six months
- Initial Treatments: NSAIDs, acupuncture, chiropractic care, all without relief
- Chiropractic Examination: Left knee and ankle weakness; no improvement with conservative care
- MRI Findings: 2-cm intraspinal schwannoma at L4, nerve root compression confirmed
- Treatment and Outcome: Laminectomy and tumor resection; near-complete symptom resolution and returned to normal function within six weeks; asymptomatic at four months

Back Pain: A Common Complaint with Rare Dangers

- Prevalence: Up to 80% of adults experience back pain
- Incidence of Spinal Tumors: 15 per 100,000 people yearly
- Schwannomas: Incidence of 0.3-0.4 per 100,000; often benign but potentially compressive

Consequences of Delay: Progression of neurological deficits, chronic pain

- Diagnostic Challenges: Symptoms overlap with more common back pain causes
- Imaging Guidelines: MRI recommended for persistent/worsening symptoms, red flags, or neurological deficits

Conclusion

- Early MRI Utilization: Imperative in cases with progressive neurological symptoms and unclear diagnosis
- Multidisciplinary Approach: Enhances the outcome; chiropractor-initiated MRI led to swift surgical referral
- Outcome Improvement: Timely intervention restored quality of life and function, demonstrated by postoperative improvement from 64% to 100% in WHO Quality of Life assessment

Spinal tumor in Chiropractic clinic

other specialists to ensure the best care. It's important for your family to have access to comprehensive care when needed.

The CDAHK wants to reassure families that health professionals are here to support you. Back pain is common, but it's important to watch for warning signs that something more serious could be going on. The CDAHK has been building a 100-case-reports for the members and students at Hong Kong College of Chiropractic (Mctimoney Chiropractic College). [1-10] We encourage you to seek medical advice if you have persistent back pain, especially if it's accompanied by other unusual symptoms.

What You Can Do:

1. Stay Informed: Learn about the warning signs of serious back problems and discuss them with your family.
2. Seek Expert Advice: Don't hesitate to talk to a healthcare provider if someone in your family has persistent back pain.
3. Ask About MRI: If there are concerning symptoms, ask your doctor whether an MRI could be helpful.

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The CDAHK calls on the government and the public to consider the findings of this study and support the necessary changes to legislation, ensuring that chiropractic patients receive the full spectrum of care they deserve.



Executive Committees of Chiropractic Doctors Association of Hong Kong at WFC Conference

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Jacky Yeung

Chiropractic Doctors Association of Hong Kong



Dr Eric Chu teaching at the Hong Kong College of Chiropractic



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