POST-TRAUMATIC SPONDYLOLYSIS REPORT OF TWO CASES AND REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

外傷性の脊椎分離症: 2 例報告と文献的考察

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SUMMARY

Progression from unilateral to bilateral spondylolysis in the spines of two persons was radiographically documented as due to trauma. The etiology of spondylolysis is discussed, and a review of the scientific literature is included. This report provides additional evidence that trauma causes spondylolysis.

BACKGROUND

Spondylolysis is a defect in the pars interarticularis without displacement of the corresponding vertebral body. Spondylolisthesis consists of spondylolysis with associated forward displacement of the involved vertebral body.

According to some investigators, spondylolysis is never present at birth, ^{1,2} and the incidence of spondylolysis increases between 5 and 20 years of age, but not thereafter.²

Radiographic documentation of the development of spondylolysis is rare. The following two cases illustrate the progression from unilateral to bilateral spondylolysis in middle-aged subjects, during or following trauma. The patients are members of the RERF Adult Health Study, the fixed population sample being continually observed for late effects of the atomic bombs.³

要約

外傷により片側性脊椎分離症から両側性脊椎分離症に進行する過程が2症例の脊椎でレントゲン学的に観察しえた.脊椎分離症の発生要因について考察し,文献的考察も加えた.本報告は,外傷が脊椎分離症の原因となるという一つの証拠を提供するものである.

背景

脊椎分離症は、対応する椎体の転位を伴わない関節 突起間部の分離である. 脊椎辷り症は、関連椎体が 前方へ転位した脊椎分離症の呼称である.

ある研究者によれば、脊椎分離症は出生時には存在せず、 1,2 その発生率は5歳から20歳の間に増加を示すが、その後の増加はない。 2

脊椎分離症の発現をレントゲン学的に観察した報告は極めて少ない。次に挙げる2症例は、外傷により中年の片側性脊椎分離症が両側性脊椎分離症に進行する過程を示すものである。この2名の患者は、原子爆弾の後影響を継続的に観察する固定集団、すなわち、放影研成人健康調査の対象者である。3

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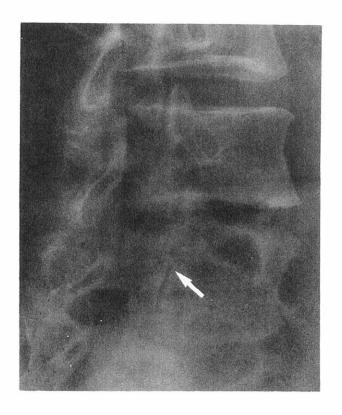


Figure 1. Case 1: Left posterior oblique lumbar spine radiograph of 21 January 1964 shows left-side pars interarticularis defect (arrow) of L5

図1. 症例 1:1964年1月21日に撮影した左背 斜方向の腰椎レントゲン写真では、第5腰椎の 左関節突起間部に分離が認められる.

CASE REPORTS

Case 1 (MF). A 51-year-old female received lumbosacral spine radiography in January 1964 because of occasional lumbago of long duration. The radiographs show a unilateral defect in the left pars interarticularis of L5 (Figures 1 & 2). Ten years later, she fell, striking her gluteal region and both elbows, and subsequently experienced occasional lumbago. Lumbar spine radiography in November 1975 showed defects in both partes interarticulares of L5 (Figure 3).

Case 2 (MF). A 28-year-old male received lumbosacral spine radiography because of occasional lumbago. The radiographs show a defect in the left pars interarticularis of L4 (Figure 4). At L4 there are also minimal indentations on the superior and inferior aspects of the right isthmus. The latter is narrower than its counterpart (Figure 5). Four years later he fell, striking his lumbar region, following which he complained of lumbago, which gradually subsided without treatment. Radiography in August 1976 revealed defects in both partes interarticulares of L4 (Figure 6).

症例報告

症例 1 (MF ... 症例は長期間にわたる時折りの腰痛のため1964年 1 月に腰仙椎のレントゲン撮影を受けた51歳の女性・レントゲン写真では、第 5 腰椎の左関節突起間部に片側性の分離が認められる(図 1, 2).10年後、患者は転倒し、臀部及び両肘を打撲、その後時折り腰痛があった。1975年11月の腰椎のレントゲン撮影では、第 5 腰椎の両関節突起間部に分離が認められた(図 3).

症例 2 (MF). 症例は時折りの腰痛のため腰仙椎のレントゲン撮影を受けた28歳の男性. レントゲン写真では、第 4 腰椎の左関節突起間部に分離が認められる(図 4). また、第 4 腰椎の右峡部上方及び下方にわずかな陥没がある. 下方部の陥没は上方部のそれよりも狭い(図 5). 4 年後、患者は転倒し、腰部を打撲. その後、腰痛を訴えたが、治療しないまましだいに軽減した. 1976年 8 月のレントゲン撮影では第 4 腰椎の両関節突起間部に分離が認められた(図 6).



Figure 2. Case 1: Right posterior oblique lumbar spine radiograph of 21 January 1964 shows no right-side pars interarticularis defect (arrow) of L5

図2. 症例 1:1964年 1月21日に撮影した右背 斜方向の腰椎レントゲン写真では,第5腰椎の 右関節突起間部に分離が認められない.

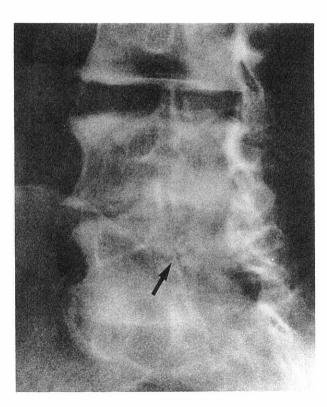


Figure 3. Case 1: Right posterior oblique lumbar spine radiograph of 7 November 1975 shows a new right-side pars interarticularis defect (arrow) of L5

図3. 症例 1: 1975年 11月 7 日に撮影した右背 斜方向の腰椎レントゲン写真では, 第 5 腰椎の 右関節突起間部に新しく分離が認められる.



Figure 4. Case 2: Left posterior oblique lumbar spine radiograph of 14 March 1968 shows a left-side pars interarticularis defect (arrow) of L4

図4. 症例 2: 1968年 3 月14日に撮影した左背 斜方向の腰椎レントゲン写真では, 第 4 腰椎の 左関節突起間部に分離が認められる.

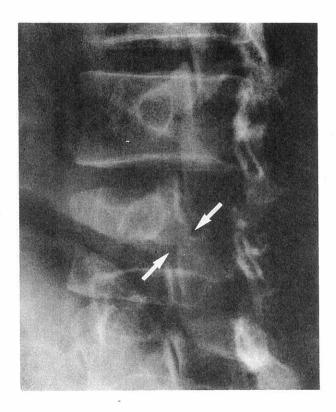


Figure 5. Case 2: Right posterior oblique lumbar spine radiograph of 14 March 1968 shows right-side minimal indentations (arrows) on the superior and inferior aspects of the pars interarticularis defect of L4

図5. 症例 2: 1968年3月14日に撮影した右背 斜方向の腰椎レントゲン写真では,第4腰椎の 右関節突起間峡部の上方及び下方にわずかに陥 没が認められる.

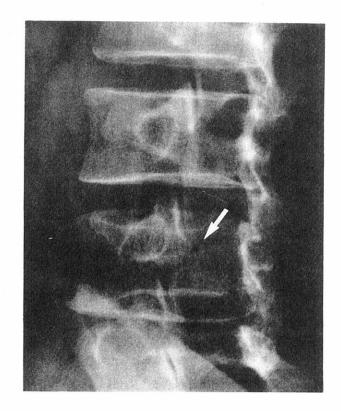


Figure 6. Case 2: Right posterior oblique radiograph of 9 August 1976 shows a new right-side pars interarticularis defect (arrow) of L4

図6. 症例2:1976年8月9日に撮影した右背 斜方向のレントゲン写真では,第4腰椎の右関 節突起間峡部に新しく分離が認められる.

DISCUSSION

The several theories proposed for the etiology of spondylolysis can be summarized as follows.

Congenital

Rambaud and Renault⁴ concluded in 1864 that spondylolysis results from failure of fusion between two separate ossification centers on each side of the neural arch. This theory was long and widely accepted. However, Mutch and Walmsley⁵ histologically observed serial sections of the lumbar vertebrae of seven fetuses, concluding that the ossification of the vertebral arch is not endochondral, and that it is not consistent with the existence of two ossification centers on each side of the neural arch. Numerous investigators have tried without success to find pars interarticularis defects in fetal and neonatal cadavers.1,2 For these reasons, the congenital theory has practically been abandoned.

Familial and Racial Prevalence

There are numerous reports of increased racial and familial prevalence of spondylolysis. ^{1,2,6-1} ² Roche and Rowe¹ reported that the frequency of spondylolysis was 5.8% in Whites, that it was

老 察

脊椎分離症の発生要因に関して提案された学説は, 次のようにまとめられる.

先天性

脊椎分離症は、椎弓側面にある二つの化骨中心の融合不全の結果生じるという1864年のRambaud 及びRenault⁴ の説が長い間広く認められていた。これに対し、Mutch 及び Walmsley ⁵ は7例の胎児の腰椎の連続切片を組織学的に観察し、椎弓の化骨は軟骨性のものではなく、椎弓の各側面に二つの化骨中心の存在はあり得ないという結論に達した。多数の研究者が死亡した胎児及び新生児の脊椎関節突起間部の分離を見付けようと試みたが、いずれも失敗に終わっている。^{1,2} 以上のような理由から、先天性説は事実上棄却された。

家系及び人種的発生

脊椎分離症が特定の人種及び家系に多発するという 多数の報告がある.^{1,2,6-12} Roche 及び Rowe¹ は, 脊椎分離症の頻度が白人では5.8%で,白人男性の twice as frequent in White males as females, and that its prevalence was 2.4% among American Negroes. Kettelkamp and Wright⁶ found a 27.4% frequency among Eskimos, and Hasebe¹³ reported a 5.6% rate among Japanese, sexes combined.

Dysplasia of the Neural Arch

Dysplasia reportedly predisposes to the development of spondylolysis. 14-17 Brocher 18 and Zippel 19 proposed the theory that dysplasia of the vertebrae, such as hypoplasia of the neural arch and the inferior articular process, and elongation and narrowing of the partes interarticulares, predisposes to spondylolysis. Arai 20 opposed this theory with the concept that hypoplasia of the neural arch and the inferior articular process is a morphological abnormality caused by sacralization. He was of the opinion that elongation and deformity of the neural arch develops in adolescence and results in spondylolysis. Wiltse 2 regarded dysplasia as an inability of bone to repair.

Mechanical Factors

Pincer Action. According to Nathan,²¹ no preexisting bony abnormalities or congenital defects of the isthmus are necessary for the development of spondylolysis. Spondylolysis can result from mechanical pressure and erosion of the isthmus by two impinging articular processes. In the immediate vicinity of the defect, both on the lamina and on the isthmus, the bony surfaces are rough and irregular. In the unilateral spondylolysis, reactive sclerosis has been reported in the contralateral pars and pedicles.²²

Cailliet²³ also reported that spondylolysis results from a pincer action on the pars interarticularis. Wiltse² opposed this theory because the "pinched-off" appearance Nathan²¹ described was not present in children at the ages when the defects appeared, only in older individuals.

In our Case 2, there were minimal indentations suggesting a pincer action on the superior and inferior margins of the right L4 isthmus before the isthmic defect developed. However, the defect in the right isthmus was fine and linear. The affected isthmus was nearly normal in width; it did not have a "pinched-off" appearance, though its appearance could have been due to a pincer action. More than half of

頻度は白人女性の 2倍であり、米国黒人では 2.4% であると報告した。 Kettelkamp 及び Wright 6 は、エスキモーではその頻度が 27.4% であることを認め、Hasebe 13 は、日本人の男女合わせて頻度は 5.6%であると報告した。

椎弓の形成不全

形成不全が脊椎分離症発生の誘因となると報告されている.¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Brocher ¹⁸ 及び Zippel ¹⁹ は、椎弓や下関節突起の低形成、関節間部の伸長及び狭少化などの脊椎形成不全が脊椎分離症の誘因であるとする説を提案した。これに対し、荒井²⁰ は、椎弓及び下関節突起の低形成は、仙椎化によって誘発された形態異常であるとみなし、Brocher の説に反対した。彼は、発育途上、椎弓に歪みが起こり、峡部に伸びや変形を生じ、ついに分離に至ると考えた。Wiltse² は、形成不全は骨の修復不能にあるとみなした。

機械的要因

ペンチ作用. Nathan²¹ によれば, 既存の骨の異常 や先天性峡部欠損は脊椎分離症の発生には必要ない. 脊椎分離症は, 峡部が上下の関節突起にはさまれて pressure erosion を生じることによって起こると考え うる. その証拠に, 脊椎茎及び峡部は分離部のすぐ 近辺の骨が粗く不規則となっている. 片側性脊椎分離症の対側峡部 や脊椎茎が反応性硬化を示すと報告 されている.²²

更に、 $Cailliet^{23}$ も脊椎分離症は関節突起間部が受けるペンチ作用の結果発生すると報告した。 $Wiltse^2$ は、 $Nathan^{21}$ が述べた「ペンチされた」形状は分離の出現する年齢の子供にはみられず、高齢者にだけみられるとして、この説に反対した。

症例 2 では、峡部に分離が発生する前に右第 4 腰椎峡部の上下方端にペンチ作用を示唆するわずかな陥没が認められた.しかし、右峡部の分離は細く、線状で峡部分離部の幅はほぼ正常であった.峡部の分離はペンチ作用によるものと考えうるが、「ペンチされた」形状 (Pinched-off appearance) ではなかった.高齢

our older patients had "pinched-off" partes interarticulares; the others had none. The "pinched-off" appearances may be secondary changes. One who develops an isthmus defect early in life may tend to have such a secondary change. This is contrary to the opinion of Wiltse.

Fatigue Fracture. Many advocate this theory. 15,17,25-27 Wiltse et al 26 reported that defects in the partes interarticulares most often result from fatigue fractures. They also cited the difficulty in determining whether a fracture is more likely due to single or repeated episodes of trauma. In nearly all of their patients, fatigue fractures had been developing. Then more severe traumatic episodes completed the dissolution and separation of bone.

A greater prevalence of spondylolysis has been reported among students engaged in sports, compared to students who were sedentary. 27-30 Kono²⁷ considered early transverse sclerotic changes in the partes interarticulares of eight persons with spondylolysis as prelytic, early signs of fatigue fractures.

The two cases of unilateral spondylolysis described here and one previously reported³¹ developed bilateral pars interarticularis defects following trauma. Because of instability, the intact sides were liable to stresses and were considered fractured during single respective episodes of trauma.

Experimental Evidence. Pfeil³² fractured the partes interarticulares of L5 vertebrae in young child cadavers using "rhythmic loading." Lamy et at³³ succeeded in fracturing the partes interarticulares of freshly autopsied lumbar vertebrae by "loading" them, but could not fracture the neural arch unless the vertebrae were in flexion. They concluded that a traumatic episode and subsequent nonunion are the more likely causes of spondylolysis than is bone fatigue, though the latter cannot be Cyron and Hutton³⁴ found the excluded. partes interarticulares, and to a much lesser extent the pedicles, susceptible to fracture when the inferior articular facets of L3-5 of cadaveric specimens were loaded repetitively to determine their vulnerability to stress. Saito,35 using a three-dimentional photoelastic study concluded that 1) the neural arches and inferior articular processes are subject to bending forces,

患者の分離症の半分以上に「ペンチされた」型の関節 突起間部が認められたが,残りの者にはそれは認められなかった. 24 「ペンチされた」形状は二次的変化かもしれない.若年時に峡部分離を生じた者は,このような二次的変化を来す傾向があるかもしれない.これは Wiltse 2 の考えに反するものである.

疲労骨折. 多くの研究者がこの説を唱えている. 15,17,25-27 Wiltse ら 26 は、関節突起間部の分離は疲労骨折の結果生じるのが最も多いと報告した.彼らは、更に、骨折が1回若しくは繰り返しのどちらによってより起こりやすいのか決定するのは困難だと述べた.彼らの意見によれば彼らの患者の場合、ほぼ全員が、徐々に疲労骨折を起こしつつあったときに、より強度の外傷を受け峡部の分離に至った.

活動の少ない生徒に比べ、スポーツをする生徒に脊椎分離症の頻度が高いことが報告されている.²⁷⁻³⁰河野²⁷は、脊椎分離症患者8名の関節突起間にみられた帯状硬化性変化を疲労骨折の初期徴候と考えた.

ここで述べた 2 例及び以前に観察した 1 例 31 の片側性脊椎分離症例は、外傷後に対側関節突起間峡部に分離を生じた。安定性がないため、分離のない側はストレスを受けやすい状態であり各々 1 回の外傷で骨折をきたしたと考えられる。

実験的所見. Pfeil³² は,「律動的な負荷」を加えることにより屍体幼児の第 5 腰椎の関節突起間部を骨折させた. Lamy ら³³ は,「負荷」を加えることにより,剖検直後の腰椎関節突起間部に骨折を起こすことに成功したが脊椎を屈曲させた状態でなければ,骨折させることはできなかった. 彼らは,疲労骨折を除外することはできないにしろ,それよりも外傷及びその後の癒合不全の方が脊椎分離症の原因となりやすいとした. Cyron 及び Hutton³⁴ は,ストレスに対する易損性を評価するために,屍体標本の第3~5 腰椎の下関節突起に繰り返し負荷を加えると,関節突起間部及びはるかに低い頻度で,脊椎茎も骨折しやすいことを見付けた. 斎藤³⁵ は,脊椎の三次元光弾性実験により,1)椎弓及び下関節突起は屈曲力

and 2) the tension and stress concentrated at the ventral margins of the pars interarticularis are the greatest of these on the posterior spinal elements. He suspects that spondylolysis is initiated in this portion of the vertebrae.

Postspinal Fusion. Harris and Wiley³⁶ described five cases of acquired spondylolysis after spinal fusion, and concluded they may have resulted from concentrated chronic stresses at the junction of fixed and adjacent mobile spinal segments. He also concluded that flexion combined with rotation of the lumbar spine is responsible for the development of spondylolysis.

Healing Spondylolysis as Evidence of Fracture. There have been many recent reports of spontaneously healing spondylolysis 25,26,37-43 following conservative therapy or immobilization of the affected vertebrae.

The congenital theory for the etiology of spondylolysis is no longer widely accepted. The two cases reported here are further proof of the role of trauma in the development of fractures of partes interarticulares of the neural arch. Familial and racial predisposition to spondylolysis and dysplasia of the neural arch may be concomitant in the development of spondylolysis, but the factors most responsible are mechanical ones, such as pincer action of the superior and inferior articular facets on the isthmus, and fatigue fractures.

を受けやすく, 2) 関節突起間峡部の腹側に働く引っ 張り応力は脊椎後方部分に受ける応力中最大である とした. 彼は,分離はこの部分に始まると推定した.

脊椎固定術後分離症. Harris 及び Wiley³⁶ は,脊椎固定術後に起こった脊椎分離症 5 例について述べ,これらが固定された脊椎部と上位の可動脊椎部との間に働く慢性ストレスの結果生じるものであると推定した. 彼は,また,腰椎の軸回旋を伴った屈曲が脊椎分離症発生の原因であると結論を下した.

脊椎分離症の治癒 (骨折の証処). 損傷脊椎の保存 的療法ないしは固定療法後に脊椎分離症が自然に 治癒するという報告が最近になって多数発表されて いる.^{25, 26, 37-43}

脊椎分離症の発生要因としての先天性説はもはや一般に認められていない。ここで報告した 2 症例は、外傷が椎弓の関節突起間部分離の発生に果たす役割を更に実証したものである。脊椎分離症及び椎弓形成不全にかかりやすい家系的、人種的素質が脊椎分離症の発生にかかわっているかもしれないが、最も大きな原因は、峡部上下関節面のペンチ作用及び疲労骨折などの機械的要因である。

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