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PATIENT WITH ACUTE THORACIC MYELOPATHY DUE TO DEGENERATIVE DISEASE

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-009-42154-6 — Patient with Acute Thoracic Myelopathy due to Degenerative Disease

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Frontmatter

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UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009421546

DOI: 10.1017/9781009421553

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009421553

First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-009-42154-6 Paperback

ISSN 2755-0656 (online)

ISSN 2755-0648 (print)

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Patient with Acute Thoracic Myelopathy due to Degenerative Disease

Elements in Emergency Neurosurgery

DOI: 10.1017/9781009421553

First published online: May 2025

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Abstract: Whilst thoracic myelopathy secondary to degenerative disease is relatively uncommon, left untreated it carries significant morbidity. It is thus of critical importance that patients are correctly diagnosed and managed expediently and effectively. Unfortunately, the management of thoracic myelopathy can be challenging, not least due to the technical difficulty accessing the site of compression, and indeed optimum management is also debated. In this Element the authors present background, clinical features, diagnosis, and pitfalls and then a handy management algorithm for this critical neurosurgical condition.

Keywords: thoracic myelopathy, thoracic disc, thoracic spinal stenosis, management, investigation

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ISBNs: 9781009421546 (PB), 9781009421553 (OC)

ISSNs: 2755-0656 (online), 2755-0648 (print)

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