

CORRESPONDENCE

Subacute posttraumatic ascending myelopathy: a literature review

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We read with great interest the article by Drs Zhang and Wang reviewing subacute posttraumatic ascending myelopathy (SPAM).¹ We recently reported a case of SPAM² that was not included in their paper, likely due to timing of publication. We also conducted a literature review, which drew many of the same conclusions as Drs Zhang and Wang's paper.

Drs Zhang and Wang's review contains images, though no detailed description, of a case they previously reported.³ This case is interesting especially in that the patient described presumably died as a result of respiratory depression from SPAM affecting the cervical spinal cord. We are not aware of another case of mortality directly attributed to SPAM.

SPAM is a rare and potentially catastrophic complication of spinal cord injury (SCI). Though more common after complete SCI, our patient developed SPAM after a mild SCI. Drs Zhang and Wang's paper further emphasizes the need for physicians to be vigilant for this entity as there are likely many unreported cases.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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