

MRI ΦΛΕΓΜΟΝΩΔΟΥΣ  
ΠΡΟΣΒΟΛΗΣ ΣΣ  
(ΑΞΟΝΙΚΗ ΣΠΟΝΔΥΛΟΑΡΘΡΟΠΑΘΕΙΑ –  
AXIAL SpA)

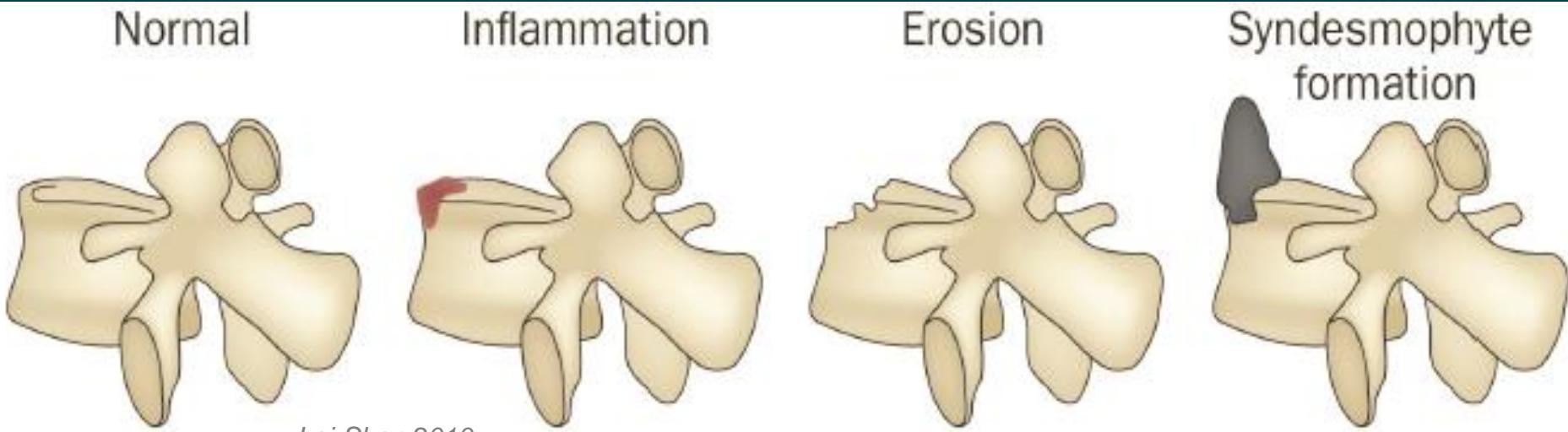
Χ. ΧΡΥΣΙΚΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ  
ΑΚΤΙΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ  
ΕΥΡΩΔΙΑΓΝΩΣΗ ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ

# ΟΡΟΑΡΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΣπΑ

- Ομάδα Χρόνιων Ρευματολογικών Παθήσεων με κοινά κλινικά, εργαστηριακά και γενετικά στοιχεία
- Πλήν Ρευματοειδούς Αρθρίτιδας (PA)
- Ως επί το πλείστον προσβάλλουν τον Αξονικό Σκελετό, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των Ιερολαγονίων Αρθρώσεων
- Σε αντίθεση με την PA (προσβολή Αρθρικού Ύμενα) οι ΣπΑ προσβάλλουν τις Ενθέσεις : οστικές προσφύσεις συνδέσμων, τενόντων, μυών και αρθρικής κάψας

# Enthesitis

- Initial inflammatory lesions result in
- *Erosions in the subchondral bone, filled with subacute or chronic inflammatory tissue and exhibit edema*
- Healed by **new bone formation** → new enthesis





T1



STIR



T2

Ligaments: low SI on all pulse sequences

# Spine: acute disease

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- T-spine: 2<sup>nd</sup> after SIJ, 1/3 simultaneously with SIJ, only 5-27% before SIJ
- Spine: MRI findings of early active AS
  1. Spondylitis
  2. Spondylodiscitis
  3. Arthritis: facet joint, costovertebral, costotransverse
  4. Enthesitis: interspinal, supraspinal, interosseous ligaments

# Early disease

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- **Spondylitis:** Osteitis and Erosions
- anterior, posterior - superior and inferior bodies-squaring
- Predict syndesmophytes 24m earlier
- **MRI:** method of choice (fat suppressed T2-w, STIR)

T1

T2

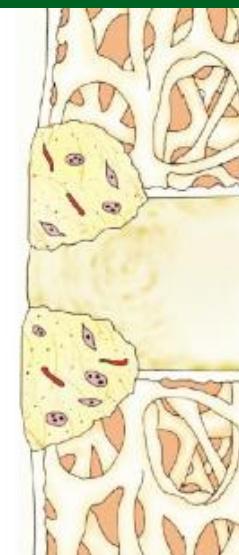
Low signal T1, High signal T2

Enhancement T1

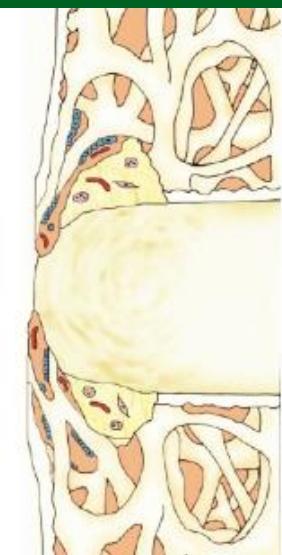
Jevtic et al Skel Radiol 2000



Inflammation



Erosion-repair



New bone formation

## Romanus lesion

67% of pts with SPA

Erosion of vertebral corner, result of enthesitis at the annulus fibrosus insertion  
Early: BME, Late changes: squaring of v. bodies, syndesmophytes, “shiny corners” X-R

Andersson lesions:  
Erosions within intervertebral spaces

2 adjacent levels is  
characteristic of AS

33% of pts with Spa

Specificity 59%

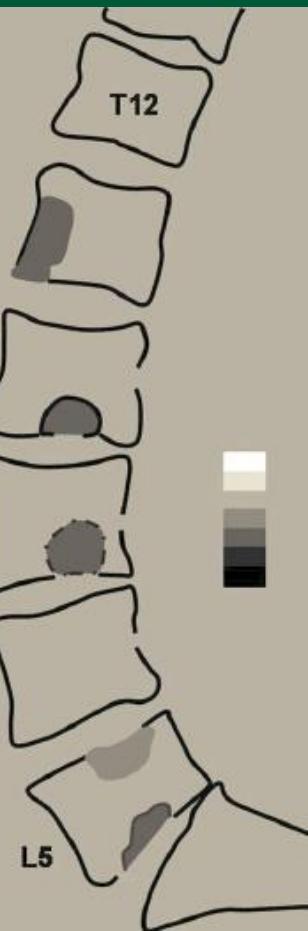
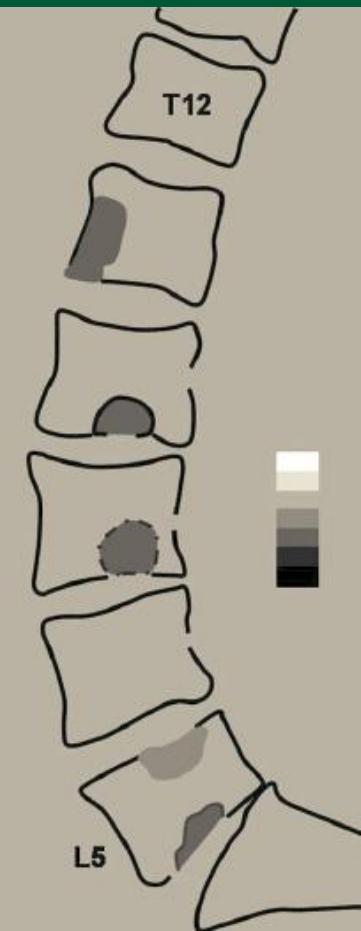
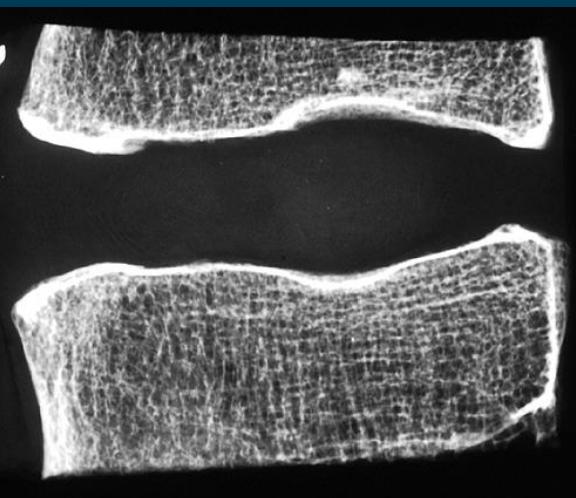
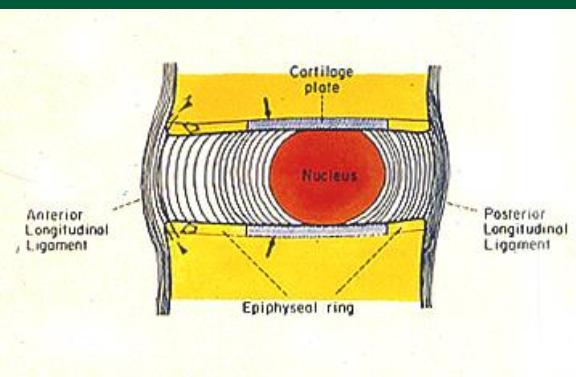


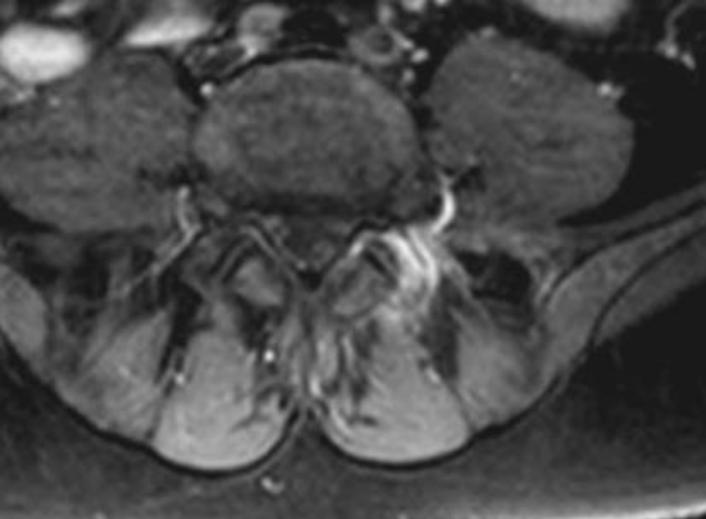
# Combined inflammatory lesions Romanus and Andersson



# Erosions

Combined inflammatory lesions Romanus and Andersson





# Arthritis Facet joints

Gd T1



Any joint from C2 to S1 can be involved  
Usually associated with BME within spinal pedicles

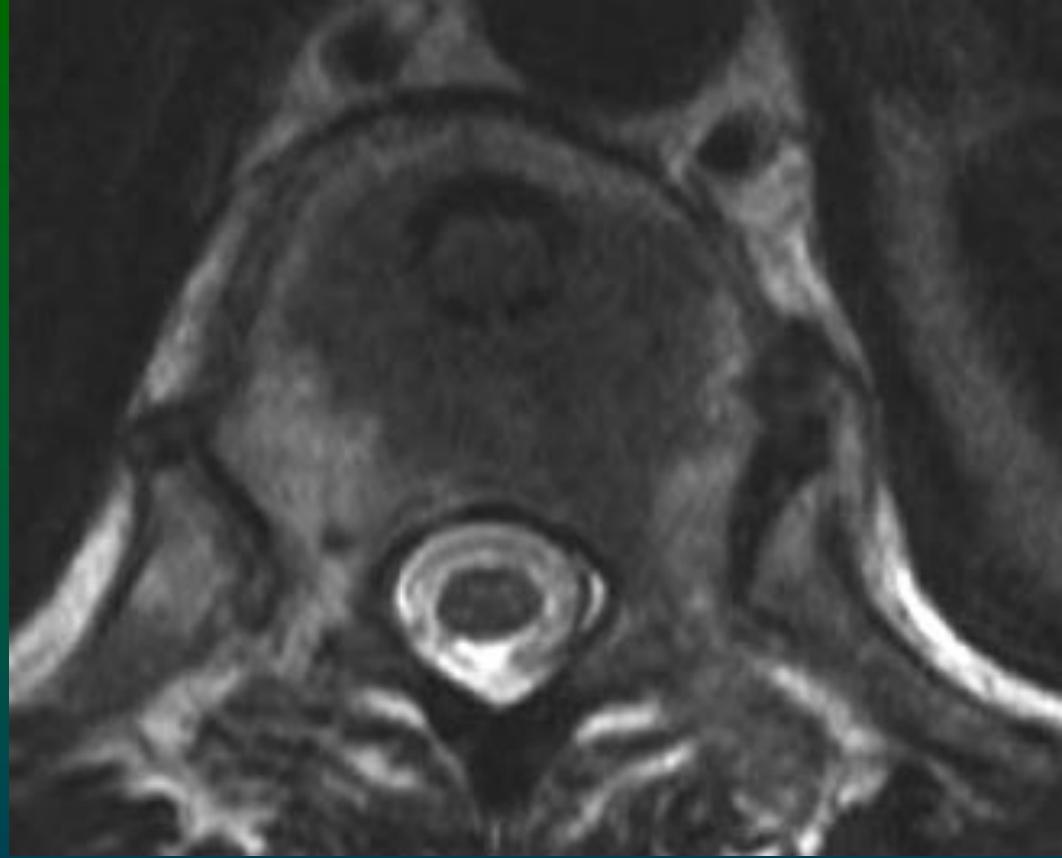
# **Costovertebral arthropathy**

- *Clinically:* Pain with deep breathing, trunk rotation, sneezing, coughing
- First and lower thoracic joints
- May precede or coexist with mild and undiagnosed sacroiliitis

» Ellrodt A, et al. *J Rheumatol* 86

» Pascual E, et al. *Br J Rheumatol* 92





43-y/o male

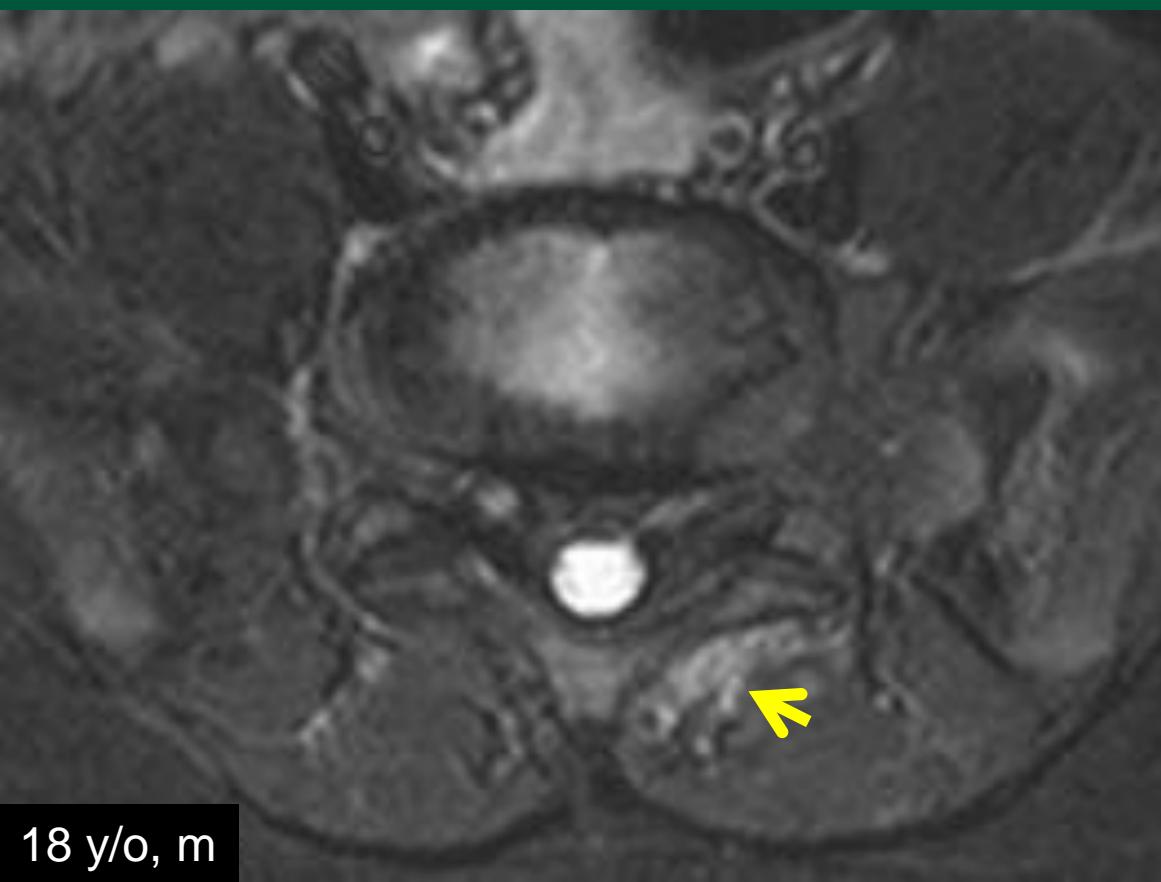
Hx: 6-month increasing back pain

Now continuous disturbing sleep  
Recent raised ESR

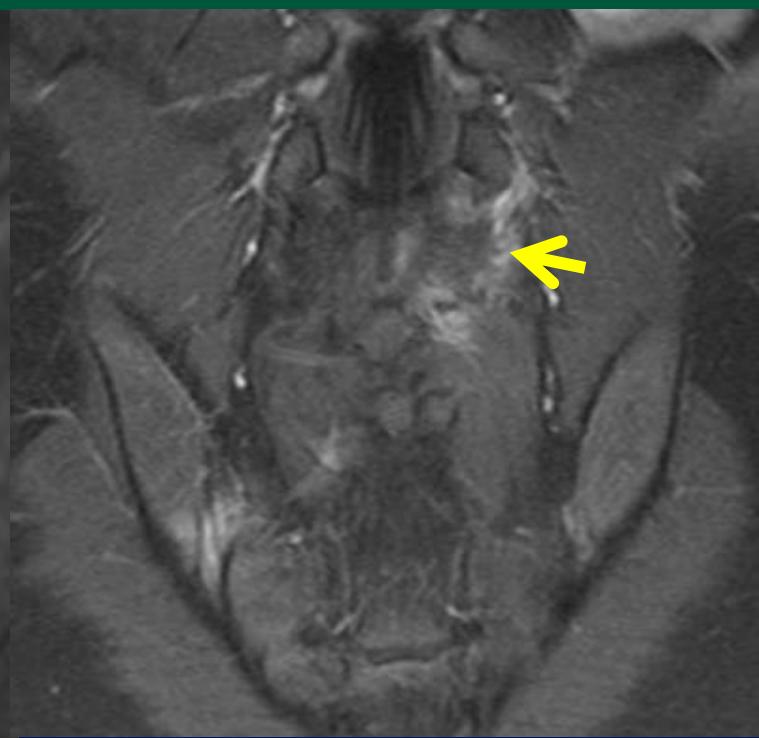
**BME**

# Enthesitis

- Specificity 87% for SPa



18 y/o, m



Hermann KG, et al. RadioGraphics 05  
McGonagle D, et al. Arthritis Rheu 98

Gd T1

44 y/o, f  
9 m pain



Dd AS/BME from MODIC I:

≥3 lesions, young patient, no significant disc degeneration

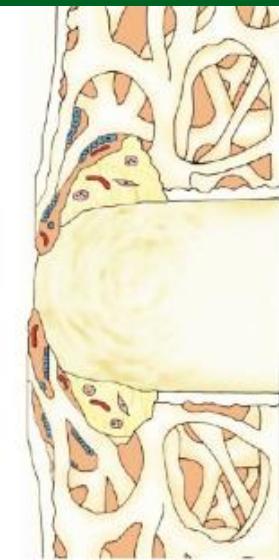
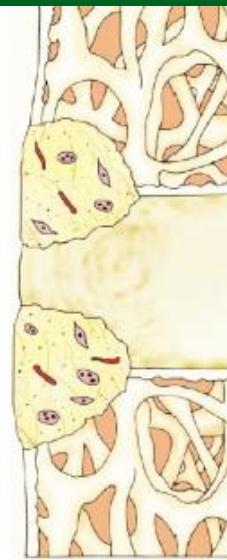
Bennett AN, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 09;

Jurik A. *Insights Imaging* 11

Enthesitis alone is not sufficient for the definition of axial SpA

# Chronic inflammatory lesions of the spine

- Syndesmophytes

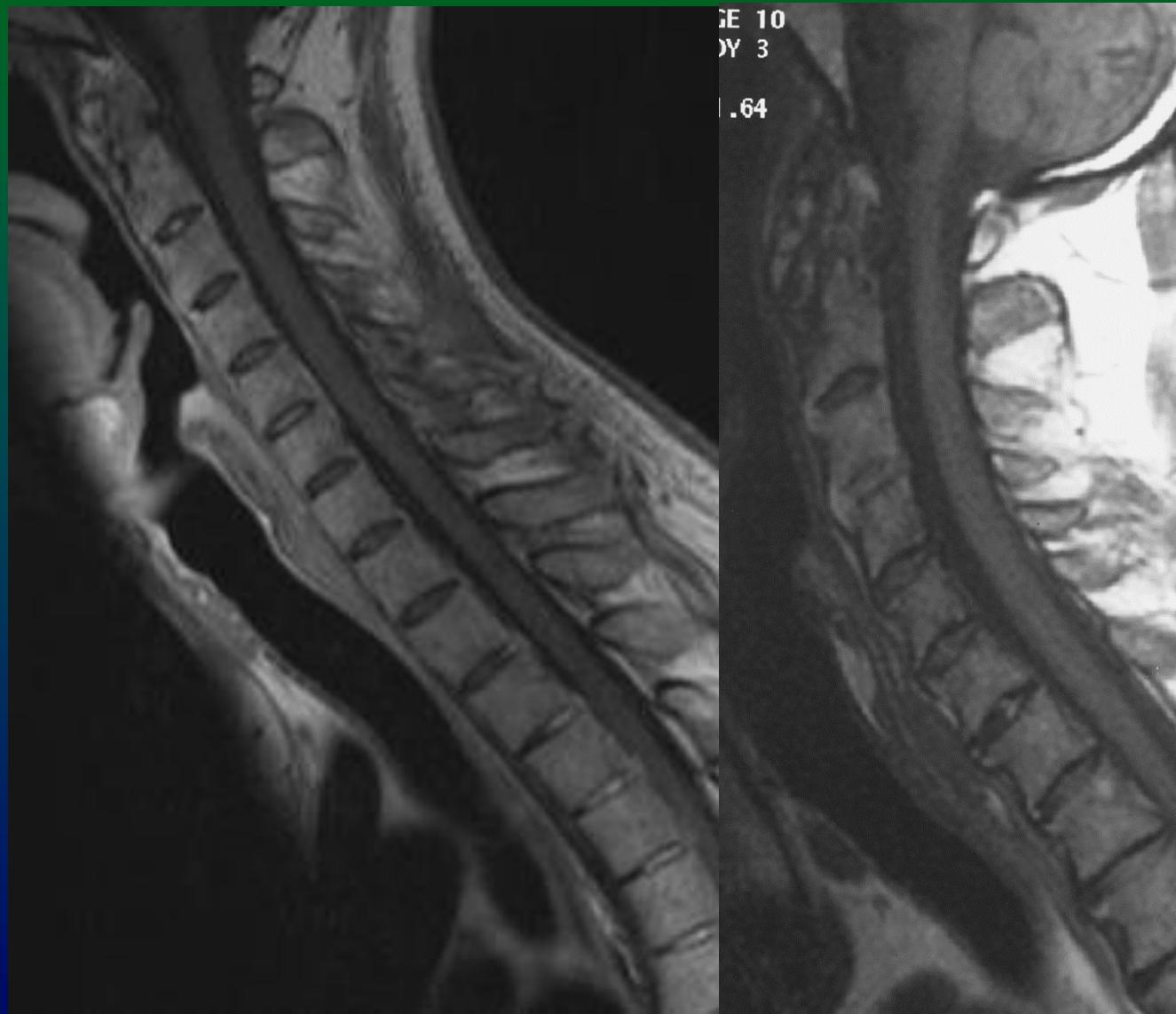


- Ankylosis

- Fat deposition vertebral corners

# Syndesmophytes

- Thin, vertically oriented, new bone formation on the peripheries of the disks.
- Symmetric and bilateral

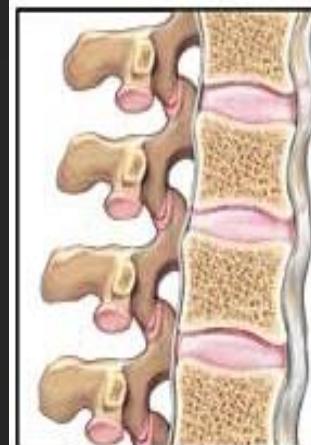




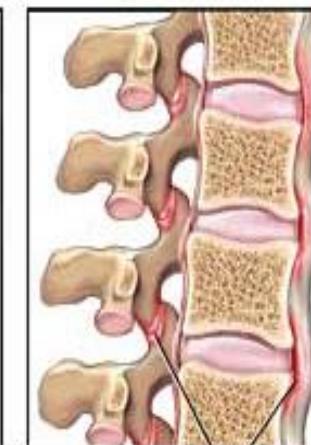
# Ankylosis

Osseous bridges and new bone formation occur in the IV disks

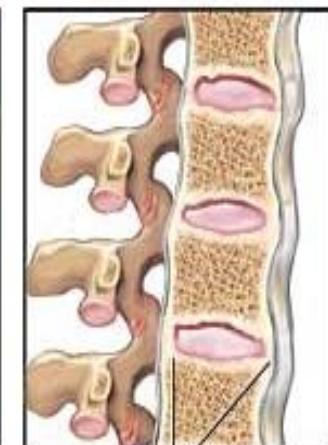
Normal



Early AS



Advanced AS



Inflammation

Fusion

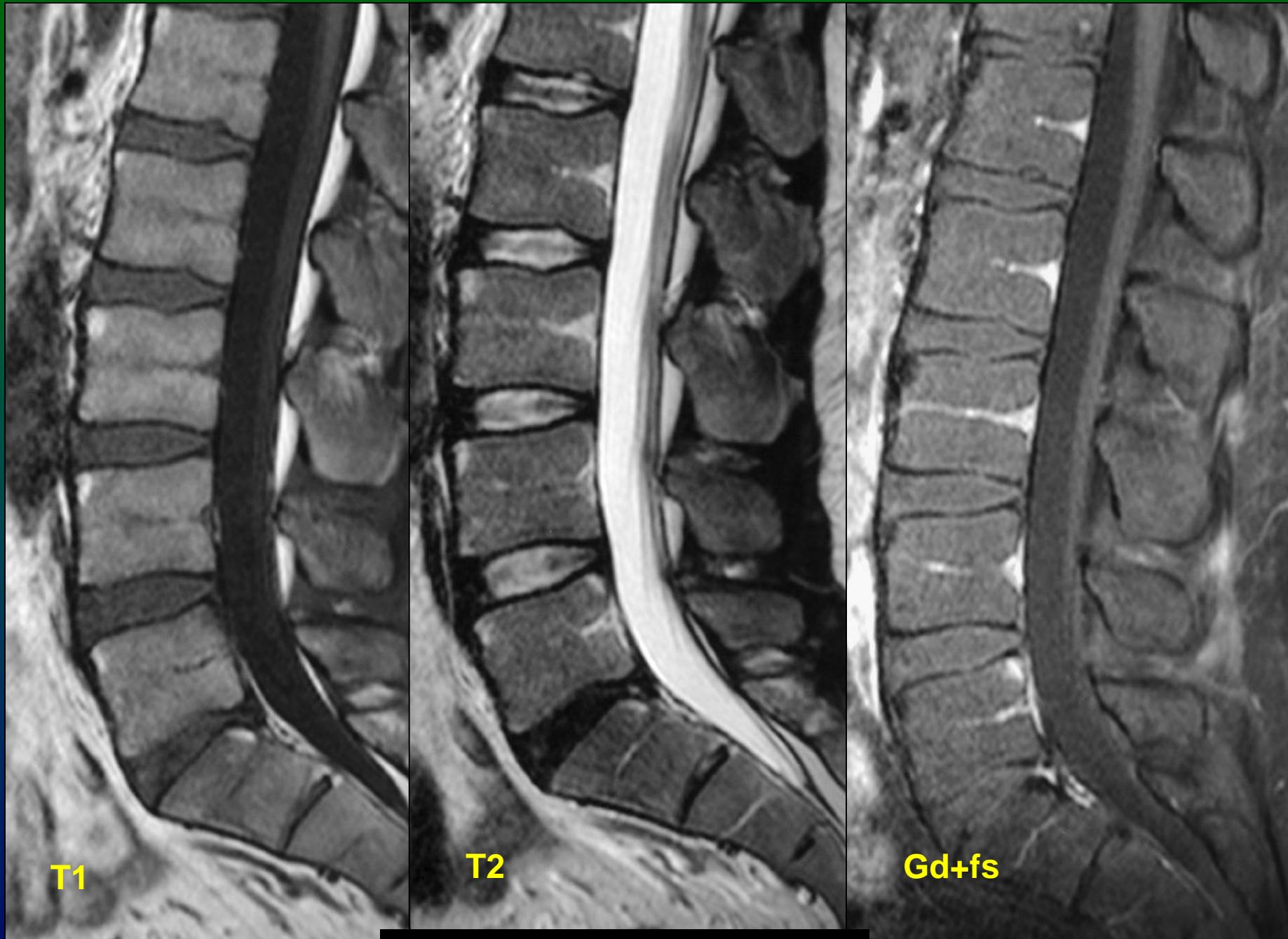


Ankylosis

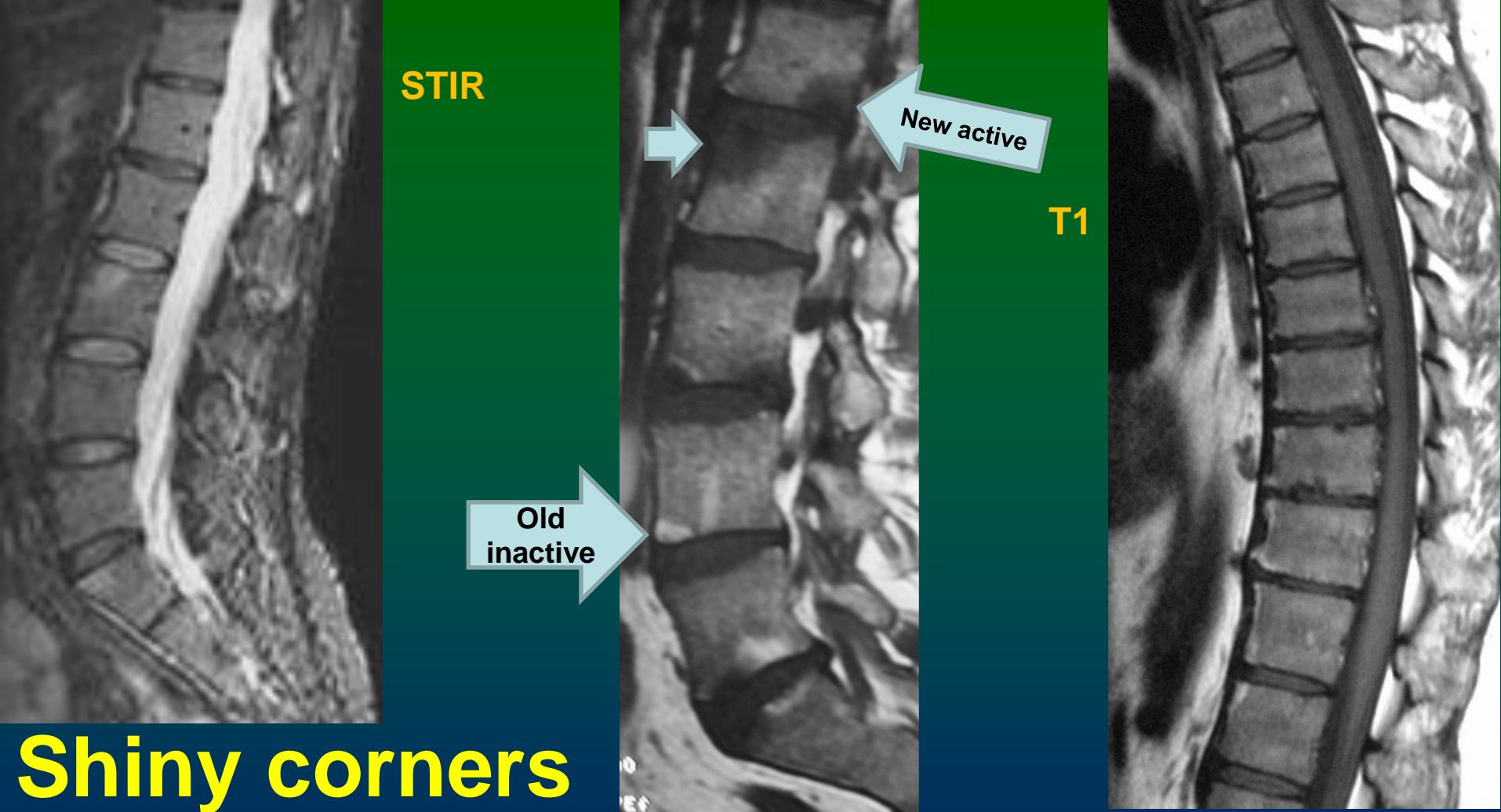
73f

# Fat deposition





Fat deposition vertebral corners

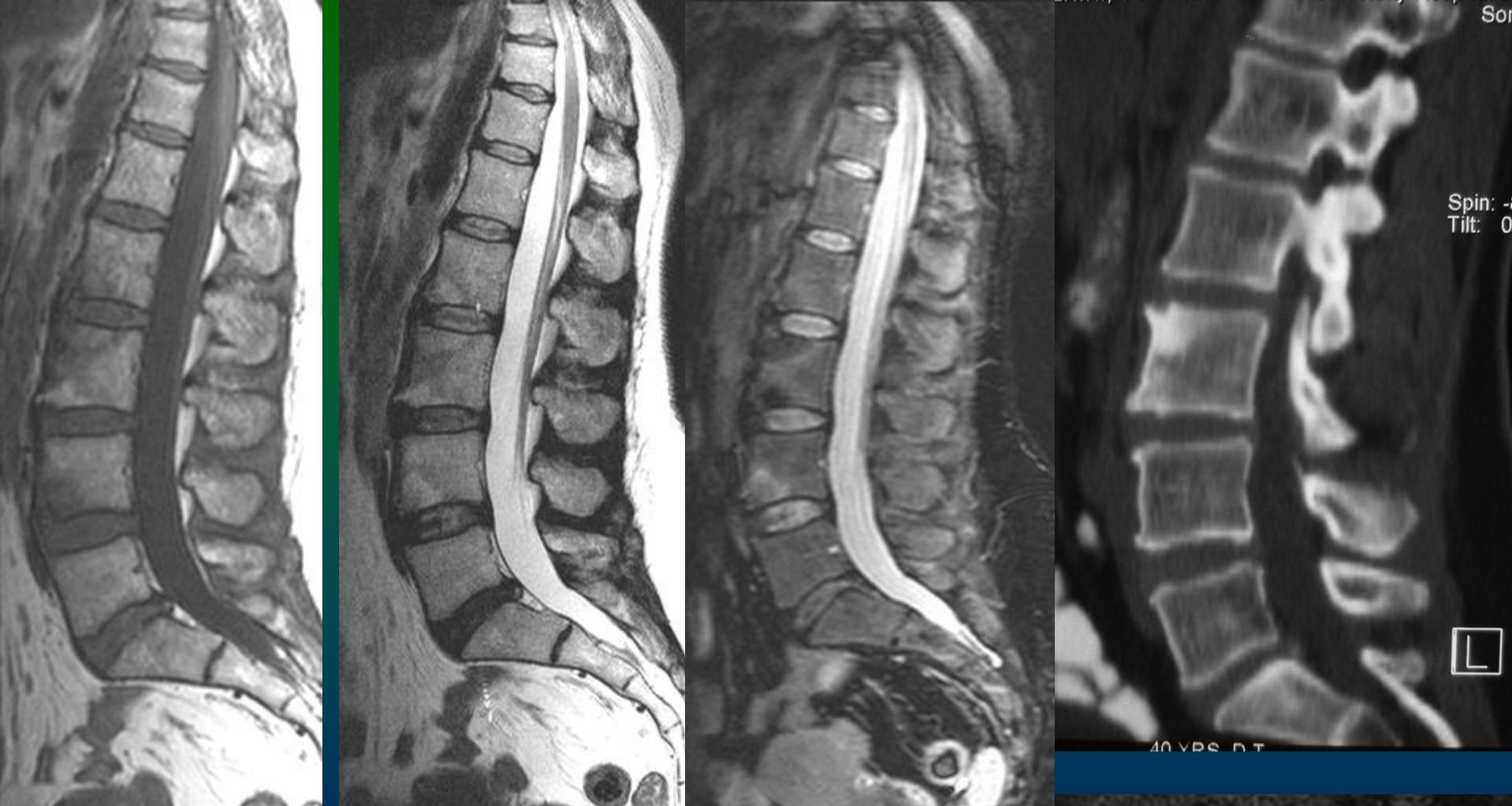


## Shiny corners

MRI edema: active lesions

MRI fat: inactive lesions

XR sclerotic, MRI low SI: chronic lesions



T1

T2

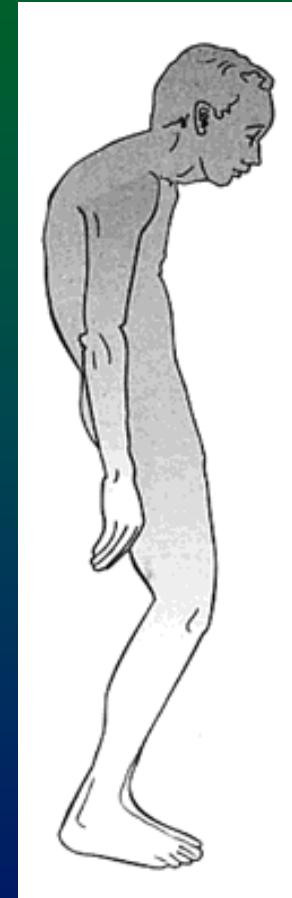
STIR

Active and chronic lesions

CT

# **Additional features in long standing AS**

- Shiny corners on X Rays
- Bamboo spine
- Disc calcification-balloonning
- Arachnoid diverticula
- Fractures, MDCT

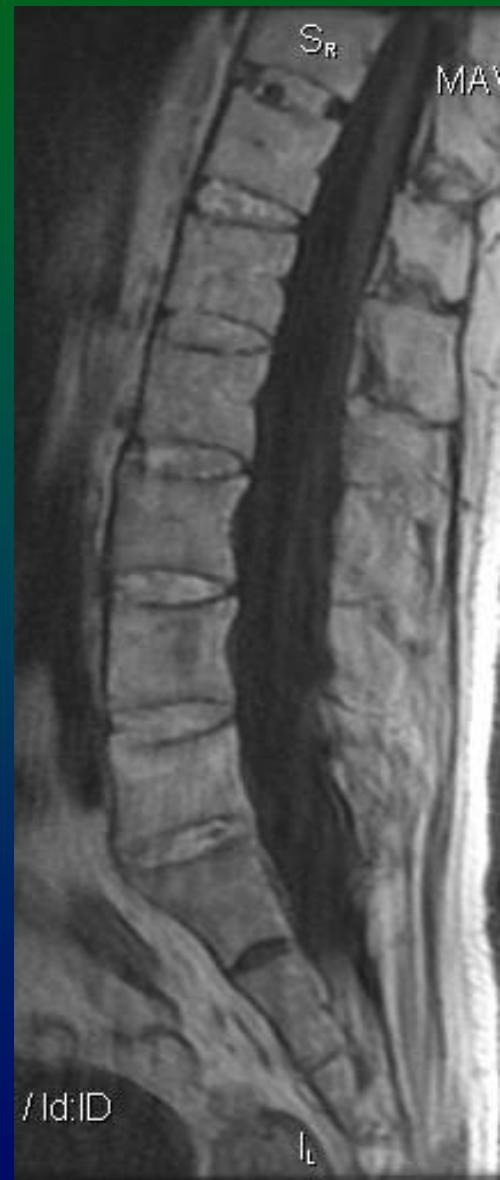
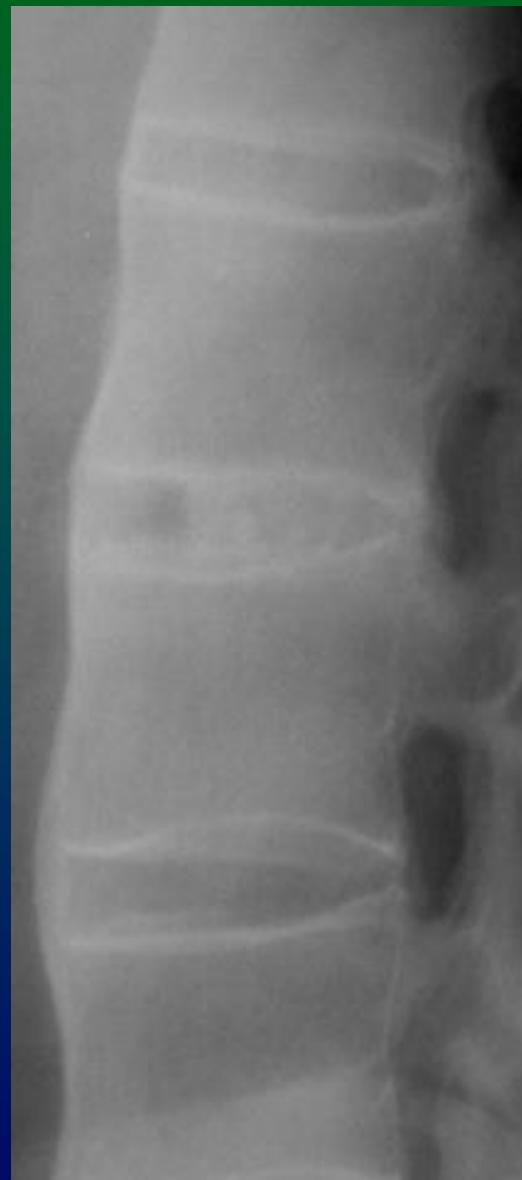


## Disc ballooning

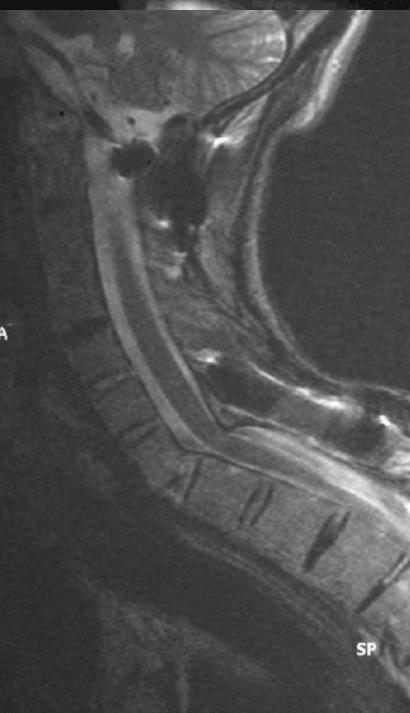
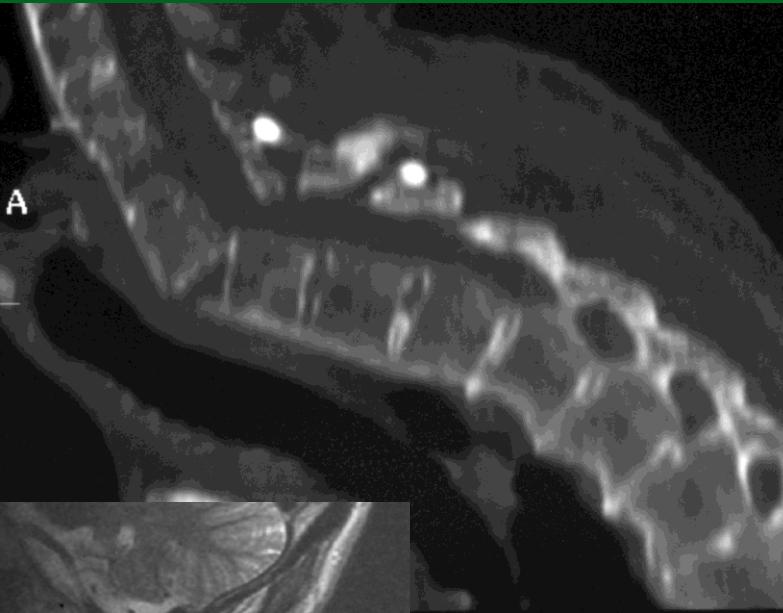


Arachnoid diverticula

# Disc calcification



# AS- Fracture



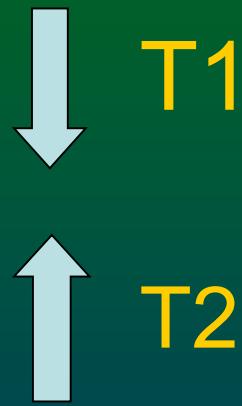
# Pitfalls

- Shiny corners in healthy people
- BME in degenerative disc disease





# Discogenic end-plate changes



**Modic I**



S<sub>R</sub>

73Y/M

S<sub>R</sub>

S<sub>R</sub>

T2  
19

T1

L

T2

L

STIR

L

# Common clinical scenario

- Young patient
- Inflammatory back pain
- Normal SI joints on plain radiographs



- **GO FOR MRI**

