

C5 Hyperflexion Teardrop

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History

Teenager found flaccid after fall of 30 feet from tree.

Diagnosis

C5 Hyperflexion Teardrop

Discussion

Hyperflexion teardrop fracture represents a significant injury. Posterior distraction leads to disruption of the posterior ligamentous complex (fanning of the posterior elements, reversal of lordosis and facet dislocation/subluxation), anterior and posterior longitudinal ligaments disruption and intervertebral annulus/disc injury. Anterior cord syndrome (immediate quadriplegia and loss of pain touch and temperature sensations, but with preserved proprioception and vibration sensation) is very common.

Findings

CT-Sagittal reconstructed image shows reversal of lordosis, anterior translation of C4 relative to C5, anterior wedging of C5 vertebral body and mild fanning of the spinous processes. Axial images show the sagittal fracture line in the vertebral body and right pedicolaminar fractures with involvement of the vertebral artery foramen.

Reference

Harris JH and Mirvis SE. The radiology of acute cervical spine trauma, 3rd Ed. Williams and Wilkins (1996).



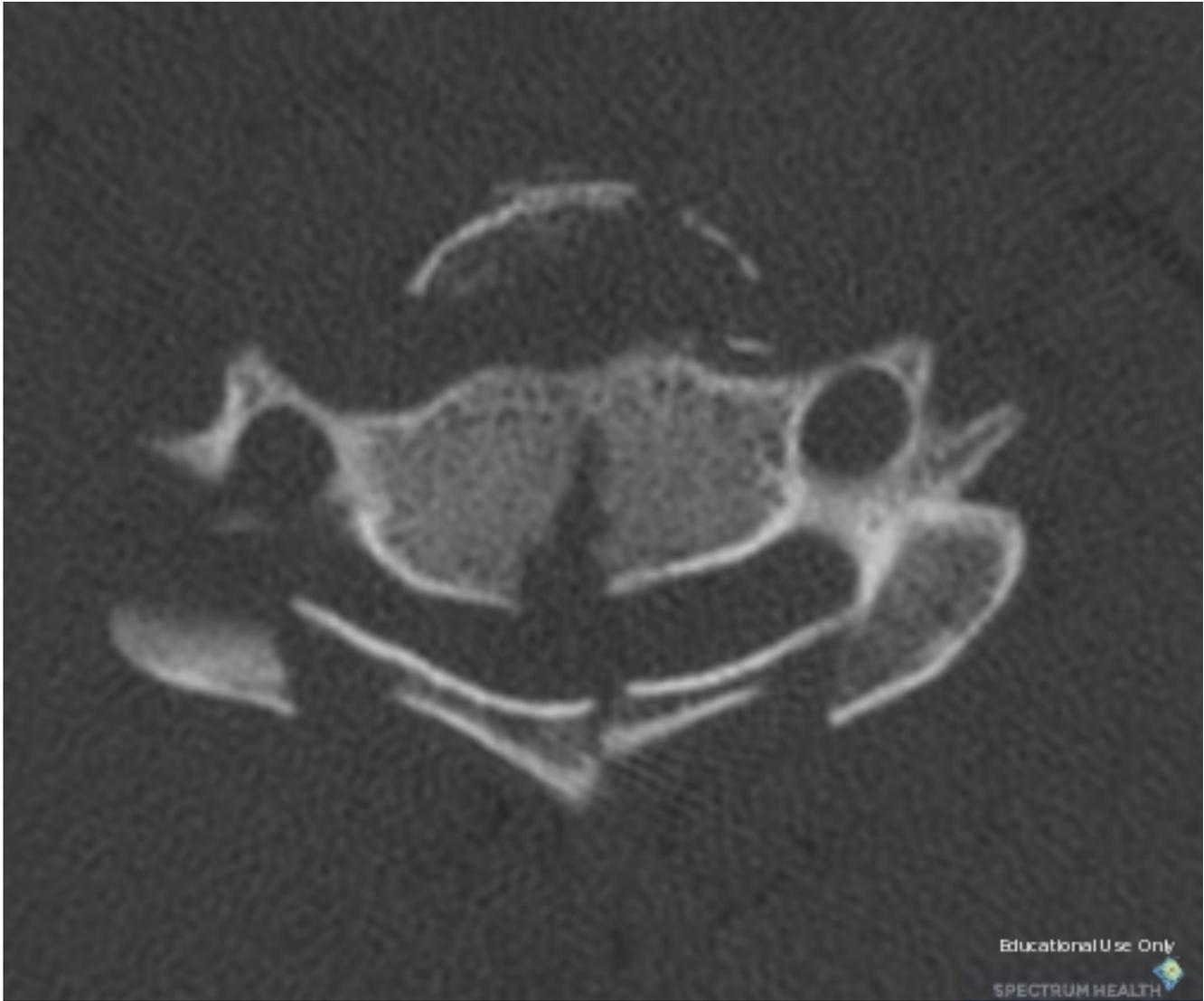
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