

IDIOPATHIC JUVENILE KYPHOSIS. A DISEASE IN ADOLESCENCE

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Idiopathic kyphosis (Scheuermann disease) is a rare, of unknown etiology, disease which presents in the beginning of adolescence with pain in the spinal cord. It can be diagnosed by clinical examination and typical X-ray pictures. Within a period of six months, two children (a boy 12 and a girl 14 years old) presented in our department with acute back pain since the previous year. Clinical examination revealed intense sensitivity and kyphosis in the thoracic and lumbac section of the spinal cord which could not be corrected in either standing or prone position. Patients when viewed from the side of forward flexed position, showed an angulation in the mid to lower thoracic region. Radiographic assessment showed narrowing of disc space, loss of the normal anterior height of the involved vertebrae (T8-L2 in girl's and T4-T5 in boys' x-rays) which produced wedging in them and irregularity of the endplates; the boy had also schmorl nodes. MRI confirmed the diagnosis. No sign of other neuromuscular, bone and joint disorders or diseases of the connective tissue was found. Analgesics and physiotherapy were suggested and patients showed improvement. Conclusions: Idiopathic kyphosis is a common cause of spinal deformity that must be always kept in pediatricians' mind.

