

Table I. *The most common symptoms from evaluation, put on the request form for MRI (n=159)*

Symptoms	Number of request forms	%
Pain down the leg	114	71.7%
Pain in back	105	66%
Dermatomal symptoms ^b	57	35.8%
Paralysis symptoms	37	23.3%
Positive Laséque test	31	19.5%
Movement impairment	27	17%

More than one symptom could be documented on each request form and therefore accumulated ratio is higher than 100% ^bDermatomal symptoms = symptoms by dermatomes

Table II. Pain down the leg or/in the back along with other symptoms, the most common compositions of symptoms put on the doctors request form for MRI (n=159)

Symptoms	Number of request forms	%
Pain down the leg and pain in back	80	50.3%
Pain down the leg and dermatomal ^b symptoms	54	34%
Pain down the leg and paralysis symptoms	32	20.1%
Pain down the leg and positive Laséqué symptoms	31	19.5%
Pain in back and dermatomal symptoms	43	27%
Pain in back and paralysis symptoms	28	17.6%
Pain in back and positive Laséqué symptoms	25	15.7%

More than one symptom could be documented on each request form and therefore accumulated ratio is higher than 100% ^bDermatomal symptoms = symptoms by dermatomes

Table III. Main pathology asked by the doctors on the request forms for MRI (n =159)

Questions	Number	Ratio ^a
Disk extrusion	98	61.6%
Spinal stenosis	33	20.8%
Foraminal stenosis	33	20.8%
Degeneration	25	15.7%
Degeneration in Facet joints	5	3.1%
Fractures	4	2.5%
Other	78	49.1%

^aMore than one symptom could be documented on each request form and therefore accumulated ratio is higher than 100%

Table IV. Main results from the MRI, main pathology and their percentage of the acumulative ratio (n=159)

Results	Number	Ratio ^a
Disk extrusion	61	38.4%
Disk protrusion	79	49.7%
Lowered disk hight	64	40.3%
Foraminal stenosis	36	16.4%
Degeneration in Facet joints	52	32.7%
Spinal stenosis	26	16.4%
Other	18	11.3%
^a More than one symptom could appear on each request form and therefore accumulated ratio is higher than 100%		

Table V. Results from the MRI, participants (n=104) that were diagnosed with disk extrusion and/or disk protrusion

Results		Number	Ratio
Disk extrusion R	<i>Without protrusion</i>	9	8.6%
	<i>With protrusion</i>	11	10.6%
Disk extrusion L	<i>Without protrusion</i>	11	10.6%
	<i>With protrusion</i>	21	20.2%
Disk extrusion M	<i>Without protrusion</i>	5	4.8%
	<i>With protrusion</i>	4	3.8%
Disk protrusion	Without extrusion	43	41.3%
R: To the right, L: To the left, M: midline			

Figure 1. Distribution of disk extrusions and protrusions by disk levels

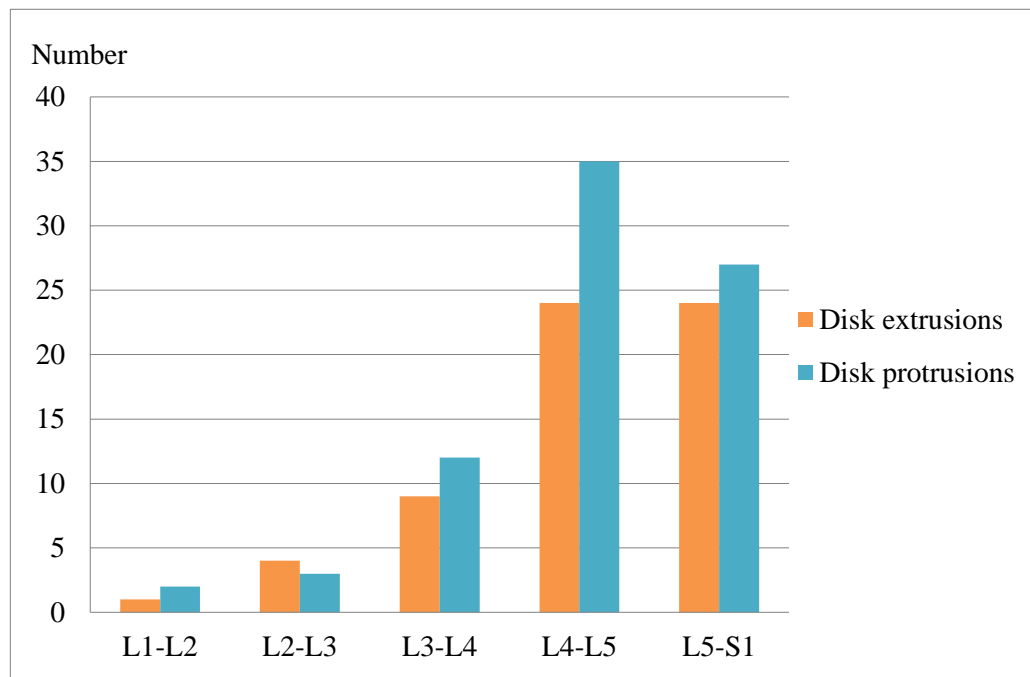


Figure 2. Connections between doctors asking about disk extrusions on request forms and results of the MRI

