

(FORESTIER ROTESQUEROL DISEASE)

DEFINITION

1. This is a fairly common disorder, predominantly of elderly men, characterised by widespread ossification of spinal ligaments and tendon insertions.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. There is spinal pain and stiffness, though this is seldom severe. There may be a dorsal kyphosis, but chest expansion is usually normal.
3. X-rays show pronounced asymmetrical intervertebral spur formation and bridging throughout the dorso lumbar spine.
4. Although it bears a superficial resemblance to ankylosing spondylitis, it is not an inflammatory disease, the sacroiliac joints are not eroded and the erythrocyte sedimentation rate is normal.

AETIOLOGY

5. Other than the fact that the condition is age-related, the aetiology is unknown.

CONCLUSION

6. **Ankylosing hyperostosis** is a condition of unknown aetiology characterised by widespread ossification of the dorso lumbar spine. It is mostly seen in elderly males.

REFERENCES

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December 1992