



PATHOLOGIC DEVELOPMENTS AND COMPLICATIONS **OF ADHESIVE ARACHNOIDITIS (AA)**

Adhesive arachnoiditis (AA) is an autoimmune-inflammatory disease in which cauda equina nerve roots are adhered by adhesions to the inner lining (arachnoid membrane) of the spinal canal cover. An inflamed adhesive mass (“clumping”) is formed which entraps nerve roots. Listed here are the four major pathologic abnormalities of AA and their medical complications.

<u>PATHOLOGIC DEVELOPMENT</u>	<u>COMPLICATION</u>
Inflammation with Nerve Destruction	Intractable pain with hormone suppression, hypertension, tachycardia, adrenal failure, cardiac arrest, premature death ⁺ , immune suppression ⁺⁺
Entrapment of Cauda Equina Nerve Roots	Leg/ankle/foot paralysis, bladder impairment (hesitancy, frequency, incontinence), bowel impairment (bloating, pain, alternating constipation and diarrhea), pain when sitting, sex organ paralysis (penis, vagina), weakness, loss of balance, falls
Spinal Fluid Flow Obstruction/Alteration	Headache, blurred vision, tinnitus (ringing in ears), nasal dripping
Spinal Fluid Seepage into Back Tissue	Skin indentation, muscles contract, arm/neck extension reduced, back pain

+Severe arachnoiditis was found in several of the adrenal failure-death cases reported by Dr. Thomas Addison in 1855.

++Intractable pain is severe and is actually a syndrome which causes multiple endocrine, cardiovascular, immune, and metabolic abnormalities.