

Evidence Discussion (SP 7)

- MRI is the preferred imaging modality for evaluation of myelopathy. It provides superior soft tissue definition to other options and allows direct visualization of intramedullary cord signal changes which can effect prognosis and management.¹
- CT Myelogram may be appropriate when MRI is contraindicated or for surgical planning. It may allow better visualization of bony neuroforaminal narrowing and may provide additional anatomic information when the MRI is ambiguous.^{1,2}
- CT Can be useful in demonstrating bony encroachment on the cord, but MRI is superior in demonstrating bone marrow changes and intramedullary cord signal. It is of limited value in evaluation of non-compressive causes of myelopathy.¹

References

1. Expert Panel on Neurological Imaging: V Agarwal, L M Shah, M S Parsons, MD, et al. ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Myelopathy revised 2020.
<https://acsearch.acr.org/docs/69484/Narrative/>
2. Song KJ, Choi BW, Kim GH, Kim JR. Clinical usefulness of CT-myelogram comparing with the MRI in degenerative cervical spinal disorders: is CTM still useful for primary diagnostic tool?. Clinical Spine Surgery. 2009 Jul 1;22(5):353-7.