



Arachnoiditis

Arachnoiditis describes a pain disorder caused by the inflammation of the arachnoid, one of the membranes that surround and protect the nerves of the spinal cord. The arachnoid can become inflamed because of an irritation from chemicals, infection from bacteria or viruses, as the result of direct injury to the spine, chronic compression of spinal nerves, or complications from spinal surgery or other invasive spinal procedures. Inflammation can sometimes lead to the formation of scar tissue and adhesions, which cause the spinal nerves to “stick” together. If arachnoiditis begins to interfere with the function of one or more of these nerves, it can cause a number of symptoms, including numbness, tingling, and a characteristic stinging and burning pain in the lower back or legs. Some people with arachnoiditis will have debilitating muscle cramps, twitches, or spasms. It may also affect bladder, bowel, and sexual function. In severe cases, arachnoiditis may cause paralysis of the lower limbs.

Source: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

NINDS provides information about Arachnoiditis: symptoms, causes, diagnoses, prognosis, treatments, links to studies, and research literature.

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/arachnoiditis/arachnoiditis.htm>

National Institute of Health, Office of Rare Diseases

<http://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/GARD/Disease.aspx?PageID=4&diseaseID=5839>

Provides links to the databases: NLM Gateway, PubMed, OMIM, and ClinicalTrials.gov for more info on arachnoiditis.

National Organization of Rare Diseases (NORD): Arachnoiditis

http://www.rarediseases.org/search/rdbdetail_abstract.html?disname=Arachnoiditis

Circle of Friends with Arachnoiditis

www.cofwa.org

Circle of Friends provides information about arachnoiditis: description, symptoms, causes, causes, treatments, on-line support groups.

WebMD: Pain Management--Arachnoiditis

<http://www.webmd.com/pain-management/guide/pain-management-arachnoiditis>

Discusses symptoms, causes and treatments.

Online Medical Information—Arachnoiditis

<http://online-medical-information.com/arachnoiditis/arachnoiditis.html>

Arachnoiditis resources to help you find answers related to arachnoiditis symptoms, diagnosis, and research.

The Burton Report: The Anatomy of Adhesive Arachnoiditis

<http://www.burtonreport.com/InfSpine/AdhesArachAnatomy.htm>

Spine Universe: Arachnoiditis

www.spineuniverse.com/displayarticle.php/article_180.htm

Sarah Smith Explains Arachnoiditis

<http://www.btinternet.com/~thinkback/arach.htm>

Chat Rooms

Blogger on Arachnoiditis

<http://arachnoiditisyv.blogspot.com>

The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please see www.paralysis.org and click *Borrow from Our Lending Library* under PRC Quick Links.

Books

- James N. Parker, M.D and Philip M. Parker, PH.D. Editors. **Arachnoiditis**. San Diego, CA: ICON Health Publications, 2002.
- James N. Parker, M.D and Philip M. Parker, PH.D. Editors. **Arachnoid Cysts**. San Diego, CA: ICON Health Publications, 2002.

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