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Exploring the Course of Atypical Bridges along the Spine

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Exploring the Course of Atypical Bridges along the Spine

Atypical bridges between the bones of the spine in **diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH)** cause severe pain and restrict spine motion. Yet, diagnosis of DISH is limited to late stage disease. To this end, my project focuses on learning the course of atypical bridging to find and treat DISH early.

Up to 2-3 million people in Canada over 50 years of age may be living with DISH. The cause of DISH is unknown and there are no current treatments beyond surgery to remove the atypical bridges. This poor knowledge and unmet need inspire my research.

As such, to raise awareness of the early features of DISH I have teamed with a hospital in the United States to access over 1,600 spine images to enable a new report of the course of DISH from early to late stages.



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