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How I do it: resection of spinal cord cavernous malformation

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Abstract

Background: Spinal cord cavernous malformations (CMs) account for 5 to 12% of all spinal vascular malformations. Surgical removal is indicated in symptomatic patients, especially if the CM comes close to the dorsal or lateral surface of the spinal cord. Spinal cord CMs pose critical challenges for the potential of severe disabling complications.

Method: We described the step-by-step surgical principles of spinal cord CM microsurgical resection. The main surgical steps are also illustrated in an accompanying operative video.

Conclusion: Pre-surgical planning of the basic steps and good contingency management skills are paramount for an effective and safe spinal cord CM excision.

Keywords: 2-Dimensional operative video; Cavernous malformation; Cervical; Spinal cord; Step-by-step surgery.