

34 week pregnant lady with cauda equina syndrome

Dr.Kishore Gangineni SPR Anaesthesia year 4 - UHCW

Dr.Soorley Srivatsa SPR Anaesthesia year 5 - UHCW

Dr.Santosh SPR Anaesthesia year 4 - UHCW

37yr female G2P1,34 weeks pregnant was referred to A&E, with a 2 week history of low back pain of moderate intensity, radiating to both legs, right more than left and loss of sensation of passing urine for 24hrs prior to admission. No history of trauma or previous back problems. A known epileptic on carbamazepine and lamotrigine with no seizures over 2yrs.Examination by neurosurgeons at 20:30hrs revealed normal power, tone, and temperature with loss of sensation around the perineum. Knee reflexes were normal and ankle reflex was absent on the left. Plantars were down going on both sides. SLR was 30°R-side, 40°L-side. Per rectal examination revealed normal tone. All blood investigations were normal. MRI (23:45) revealed L5 S1 Disc prolapse. Patient was reviewed at 04:00am and a decision for emergency Lumbar Discectomy made, which preceded by LSCS to facilitate discectomy in the prone position. Neonatal unit team were summoned for help, and both operations performed in the neuro theatre. Operation revealed a large extruded disc fragment with severe compression of cauda equina. Total blood loss was 700ml. Anaesthesia (general anaesthesia + Rsi) and Surgery was uneventful. Baby was fine with normal APGAR scores. Post operatively patient was pain free in both legs but still no sensation.