



## **ADHESIVE ARACHNOIDITIS (AA) AND CHRONIC CAUDA EQUINA INFLAMMATORY DISEASE (CEID) ARE THE SAME DISEASE**

Chronic cauda equina inflammatory disease (CEID) and adhesive arachnoiditis (AA) are the same disease. CEID is stage 1 and AA is stage 2.

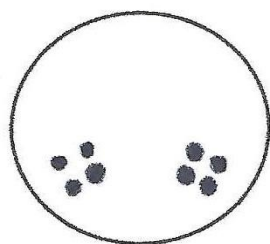
**HOW THE PROCESS WORKS:** The cauda equina must become inflamed before it can form adhesions and glue some of its nerves to the arachnoid membrane which is the inner lining of the spinal canal cover. Once some cauda equina nerves are attached to the arachnoid, it is called "adhesive arachnoiditis."

**SYMPTOMS, PAIN AND TREATMENT ARE IDENTICAL:** The confusing problem has been that some persons with typical AA symptoms are being told by radiologists and physicians that they don't have AA. Furthermore, they have no explanation for their symptoms or treatments to recommend. Be advised. They have likely never been informed that CEID even exists.

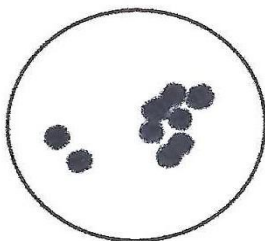
**BLOOD TEST CONFIRMATION:** CEID and AA both usually show elevated inflammatory markers (i.e. interleukins) and elevated autoimmune markers (i.e., Epstein-Barr IgG, antinuclear autoantibodies ANA).

**MRI PROBLEM:** Persons with typical AA symptoms often don't show AA on MRI. An MRI diagnosis of AA must show a group or clump of cauda equina nerves adhered (glued or stuck) to the arachnoid-dura spinal canal cover. CEID will, however, show nerves that are abnormally displaced, asymmetrical, shifted, enlarged, or grouped.

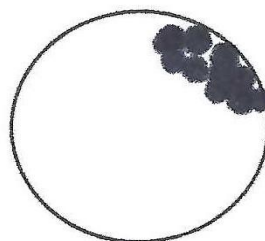
### **MRI DIAGRAM OF CAUDA EQUINA NERVES**



**Normal**  
**Symmetrical  
Both Sides**



**CEID**  
**Displaced, Enlarged,  
Asymmetrical, Grouped**



**AA**  
**Mass/clump stuck  
To Arachnoid**

The above diagrams show the positions of cauda equina nerves on axial (toe to head) views of a contrast MRI. CEID is usually associated with multiple herniated discs and sometimes with Tarlov cysts.