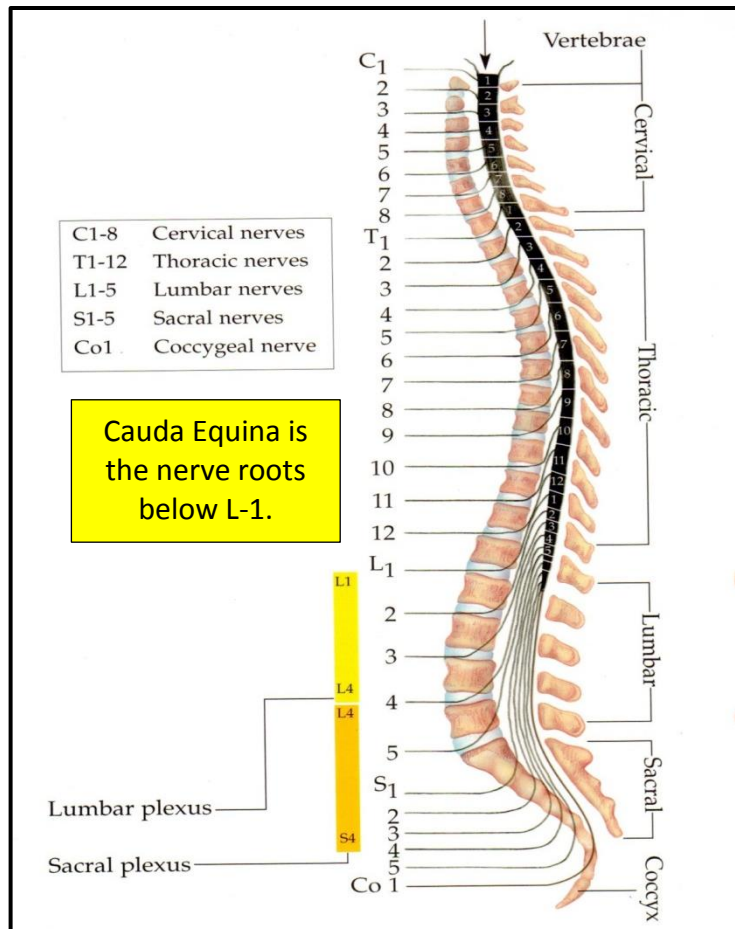


Arachnoiditis Bulletin 2 Revised March-2018

ARACHNOIDITIS IS NO LONGER A RARE DISEASE

- Until recently arachnoiditis (ARC) was considered a rare disease. No more. Thanks to the technology of contrast MRI's, ARC can be diagnosed in a person with typical history, symptoms, and physical exam.
- Arachnoiditis is the term applied when the arachnoid lining of the spinal canal cover and/or the nerve roots in the cauda equina become inflamed.
- While most cases of ARC are in the lumbar spine area it also commonly occurs in the cervical neck. Although only a few nerve roots are in the cervical neck, the arachnoid layer of the spinal canal cover in the neck can become chronically inflamed and produce profound pain and disability.
- It now appears that patients who have been labeled with subjective, non-specific terms like "failed back syndrome" or "cervical neck disorder" usually have inflammation in the arachnoid lining and/or spinal nerve roots.



BOTTOM LINE

There may be 1 to 2 million people in the United States with arachnoiditis as it is the root cause of severe pain in many patients that have severe lumbar and neck pain.