

HOW COLLAGEN DISEASES CAUSE ADHESIVE ARACHNOIDITIS (AA)

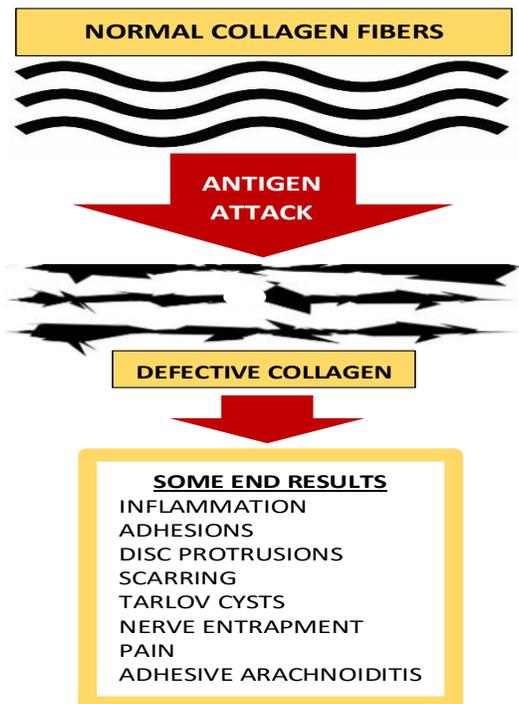
The three major causes of AA that we have identified are traumatic injury including surgery, toxic chemicals from epidural injections, and collagen diseases. This bulletin explains how the collagen-autoimmune diseases cause AA.

ANTI-COLLAGEN ANTIGENS – “COLLAGEN ATTACKERS”: The disorders listed in the Table below may all produce small particles in the blood called antigens. Arguably these particles should be called “collagen attackers.” These antigens literally eat away or biochemically weaken collagen allowing it to deteriorate, dissolve, fray, tear, and subsequently produce inflammation, adhesions, and scarring. The formation of antigens and their attack on tissues is called “autoimmunity.”

SAD FACT: Intervertebral discs, cauda equina nerve roots, and the arachnoid-dural covering of the spinal canal are loaded with collagen that holds these tissues together. Antigens may, therefore, go after these spinal canal tissues, cause collagen to deteriorate, and develop several spinal canal conditions which are shown in the “Collagen Disease Sequence” below.

THREE CATEGORIES OF COLLAGEN DISEASE THAT MAY CAUSE AA:

<u>GENETIC</u>	<u>AUTOIMMUNE/COLLAGEN DISEASES</u>	<u>POST-INFECTION AUTOIMMUNITY</u>
Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes (EDS), Marfan Syndrome	Psoriatic arthritis, Systemic Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Scleroderma	Lyme, Epstein Barr Virus (EBV)



NOTE: We have found that the **COMBINATION** of a collagen disease and high EBV titers is associated with many, if not the majority, of today’s cases of AA.

KEY POINT: Many persons with AA do not know they have a collagen disease and believe that a spinal puncture, epidural injection, or surgery caused their AA. The fact may be that the collagen matrix in their intervertebral discs, cauda equina, or arachnoid-dural spinal canal covering was defective prior to the medical procedure. Actually, it may be that the **COMBINATION** of a medical procedure and a collagen disease led to AA.

THE COLLAGEN DISEASE SEQUENCE

The graphic on the left shows the collagen-autoimmune disease process and possible outcomes.

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