Case report 491

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Fig. 1 A–C. MRI examination (TR = 0.5, TE = 17). A, B Axial sections through the sacrum show a diffuse area of signal loss in the right sacrum. C Coronal view shows the area of low signal (arrows) which extends to the upper portion of the sacroiliac joint on the right without crossing.

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Clinical information

This 33-year-old woman was evaluated for persistent low back pain six weeks postpartum. The patient began having pain shortly after an uncomplicated cesarean delivery. The history of the pregnancy is significant in that the patient gained 40 lbs. in weight during the pregnancy. Within weeks following the delivery, the patient resumed an active life which included engaging in an active aerobic exercise program to help lose the weight gained during the pregnancy. Physical examination revealed mild tenderness over the lumbosacral junction more on the right than on the left. The remainder of the physical examination was normal. Plain radiographs of the lumbar vertebral column and pelvis were interpreted as normal. An MRI examination to evaluate the possibility of a herniated lumbar intervertebral disc (Fig. 1) revealed an area of low signal involving the right sacrum. A CT examination was performed (Fig. 2).