

SEPTEMBER IS CHIARI AWARENESS MONTH

Neck Pain

A researcher from India (Thakar) found that people with Chiari, even without syringomyelia or scoliosis, have smaller muscles supporting the cervical spine in the neck area. Paraspinal muscles are muscles that run along the spine and provide it with support. The researcher used MRIs to look at the cross-sectional area of the muscles of the cervical spine as a ratio with the area of the bone they support. He found that the deep extensor muscles in particular were significantly smaller in Chiari patients compared to controls. The smaller muscles were also correlated with neck pain reported by the patients. The researchers at the CCRC are now working to duplicate this study on the larger collection of images from the Chiari 1000.