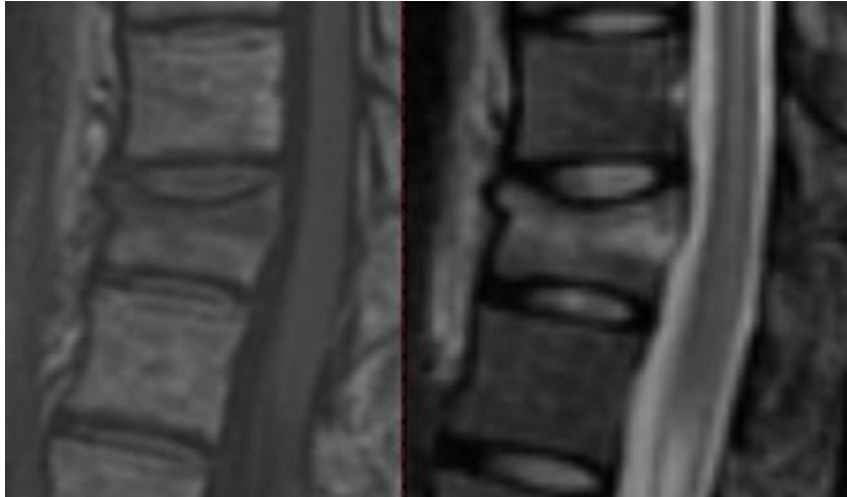


Compression Fractures



Aging compression fractures is often quite difficult and sometimes impossible on a plain film X-ray. A recent compression fracture will result in bleeding-bone marrow edema-which will remain for at least 4-6 weeks before being resorbed. As such, MRI is an excellent tool in this initial 4-6 week window to confirm the fracture is recent. As with all water densities, bone marrow edema is low signal (dark) on T1 weighted images and high signal (white) on T2 weighted images. In the case below notice how the bone marrow edema in the recently compressed segment follows the signal of the CSF. Finding the CSF helps to identify T1 (left side-water dark) from T2 (right side-water bright).