

Lucent Cleft Sign



The lucent cleft sign represents an important sign of traumatic injury to the annular fibers of the disc (annular tears) in the cervical spine. It is seen as a small vacuum phenomenon in the anterior inferior intervertebral disc when the patient is in the extended position. There is often retrolisthesis as well due to the soft tissue injury. If the patient's symptoms do not correspond to the same segments, then it is more likely to be due to degenerative disc disease than from tearing of the annulus.