

In 1975, Peterson ([\[1\]](#)) wrote an article on the hazards of myelography, published in the journal Radiology.

He stated:

“Air is completely absorbed without producing long-term side effects. **Lipiodol and Pantopaque are not absorbed and residual medium in the spinal canal can cause arachnoiditis** .”
;

Furthermore, a case report of chronic arachnoiditis after Pantopaque study of the posterior fossa was published by Mortara and Brooks. ([\[2\]](#))

Unknown authors contributed a letter in the British Medical Journal on hyperthyroidism after use of contrast medium. ([\[3\]](#))

Ironically, 1975 also saw the publication of a paper on the use of myelography to diagnose the very condition it causes! Jorgensen et al. ([\[4\]](#)) published a classification of the myelographic appearance of arachnoiditis, which was to be used by many clinicians subsequently.

They divided the condition into two Types, I, the

“empty thecal sac”;

and 2,

"localised or diffuse filling defects".

The authors noted:

"The assumed cause of arachnoiditis was, in more than half of the cases, the **combination of myelography and operation** in close relation."

[1] [Peterson HO.](#) *Radiology.* 1975 Apr; 115(1): 237-9. The hazards of myelography.

[2] [Mortara RH, Brooks WH.](#) *South Med J.* 1976 Apr; 69(4): 520-1. Chronic arachnoiditis after a pantopaque study of the posterior fossa.

[3] *Br Med J.* 1975 Oct 18; 4(5989): 162-3. Letter: Hyperthyroidism after use of contrast medium.

[4] Jorgensen J, Hansen PH, Steenskov V, Ovesen N. *Neuroradiology* 1975 Aug 7; 9(3): 139-44A clinical and radiological study of chronic lower spinal arachnoiditis.