

(b) a posterior, or retro-dural, which splits up over the walls of the spinal canal, anastomosing with arteries from above and below; (c) a middle or medullary. pierces the sheath of the dura mater, to enter the cineritious substance of the cord, anastomosing with the anterior spinal in front and the posterior behind. Branches of the lumbar arteries, eight in number, supply the vertebral bodies and ligaments only. Large branches from the internal iliac abundantly supply the sacrum, its nerve trunks and the coccyx. In no other region will we discover so free anastomosis between the large arterial and venous capillaries. So keenly alive are surgeons to this anatomical fact, that they are always

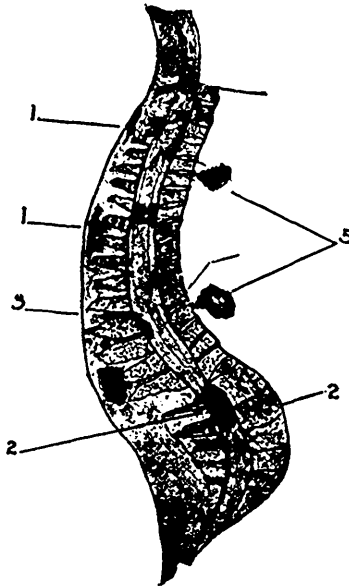


FIG. 1. Spinal Hemorrhage Types.

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Extradurachidian.          | 4. Hematomyelia.                |
| 2. Intrarachidian.            | 5. Intrathoracic and abdominal. |
| 3. Intra and extra rachidian. |                                 |

impressed by a salutary dread when they essay to expose the spinal cord, for no other organ in the body is more inaccessible to the scalpel in the event of an excessive vascular leakage. Sir Victor Horsley sets this down as one of the greatest dangers of laminectomy. A plexus of very large veins courses freely over and under the vertebral walls. Zappy said that intrarachidian veins when fully distended occupy quite one-third of the spinal canal.

*On the Usual Situation of Spinal Hemorrhage.*—Over the cervical areas the deeper tissues are a veritable sponge, much like the cavernous, for vascularity. In my own first case of laminectomy for fracture, before the shattered arches could be removed—