

Core Data Elements

Domain	Data Element	Description
Demographics	Biological Gender	The biological state of being male or female.
	Ethnicity	Belonging to a group of people who share similar national, racial, or cultural origins.
	Age	How many years old someone is.
Co-Morbidities	Mental Health	The condition of emotional, psychological, and social well-being and whether or not there is any mental illness..
	Obesity	The condition defined by the accumulation and storage of excess body fat.
	Diabetes	Conditions where blood sugar levels are not controlled, because insulin either is not produced or is not used efficiently by the body.
	Smoking Status	Describes whether a person inhales the fumes of burning tobacco and, if so, how much.
	Performance Status	A measure of general well-being and ability to carry out the activities of daily life.
	Other Neurological Disease	The presence of any other neurological disease.
	Definition of DCM	Definition and/or criteria used to make a diagnosis of DCM.
	Time of First Symptoms	Time at which symptoms started.
	Time to Diagnosis	The duration of the symptoms observed by an individual, up to the point at which a formal diagnosis was provided.
	Rate of Progression	The speed at which features of DCM become worse as experienced by an individual.
	Number of Previous Surgeries	The number of previous surgeries attempting to treat DCM.
	Co-Existent Radiculopathy	The presence of nerve root compression as well as spinal cord compression.
Imaging	Use of MRI Imaging	The use of MRI cervical spine imaging as part of diagnosis and work-up.
	Use of CT Imaging	The use of CT cervical spine imaging as part of diagnosis and work-up.
	Level(s) of Compression	The area(s) of compression of the spinal cord in DCM.
	Pathology Causing Compression	The predominant disease process causing excessive pressure on the spinal cord.
	Amount of Cord Compression	The extent of compression of the spinal cord in DCM.

Domain	Data Element	Description
Imaging	Presence of Cord Signal Change	Damage and swelling of the spinal cord can appear as a change in colour on MRI scans.
	Syrinx	The presence or absence of a spinal cord syrinx.
	Spondylolisthesis	The presence or absence of spondylolisthesis.
	Radiological Stability	The presence or absence of motion, as defined using dynamic imaging.
Examination	Long Tract Signs	Evidence from examination of spinal cord dysfunction e.g. hyperreflexia, increased tone or Hoffman's sign.
Surgical	Time of Treatment	The duration of the symptoms observed by an individual, up to the point where treatment was provided.
	Operation Type	The procedure used to treat DCM.
	Approach (Anterior/Posterior/Combined)	The direction of approaching the spinal cord during surgery.
	Operated Level(s)	The level(s) of the spine addressed by the surgery.
	Instrumentation	The implantation of metalwork during surgery (screws, cages, plates, etc.) to provide stability and promote bone fusion.
	Primary Surgeon Experience	Experience of primary surgeon.
	Post-Operative Rehabilitation/Physiotherapy	Use of physiotherapy after an operation to help improve or restore movement and physical function.