



## Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) vs. Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)

Category	DM	IVDD
Usual age of onset	8-12 years	2-8 years
MRI	Normal	Shows disk damage
DM DNA test	At Risk	May be Clear, Carrier, or At Risk.
Initial signs	Dog loses ability to sense movement or body position, feet slipping, dragging, or crossing, loss of muscle in back legs.	Can be sudden, acute, complete paralysis. Can also have symptoms like those of DM. Rear feet may knuckle over, dog may lose “quick reflex” in back feet (slow or not able to right foot).
Pain	None from DM	Mild to extreme; no deep pain occurs only with complete paralysis.
Improvement	None, progresses until dog is completely paralyzed and body systems shut down.	Improvement may occur with surgery or rest, medications, rehab.
Treatment	Physical therapy may help slow progression, supplements sometimes recommended, no cure. Assistive devices and carts will be needed, dog will need help with toileting and preventing bed sores.	Surgery or crate rest combined with physical therapy, NSAIDS or steroids.

IVDD: <https://www.acvs.org/small-animal/intervertebral-disc-disease>

DM: <http://www.offa.org/dnatesting/dm.html>

Cardigan Welsh Corgi Health Foundation: <http://cardiganhealth.com>