

Acute calcific tendonitis of the longus colli muscle (ACTLC)

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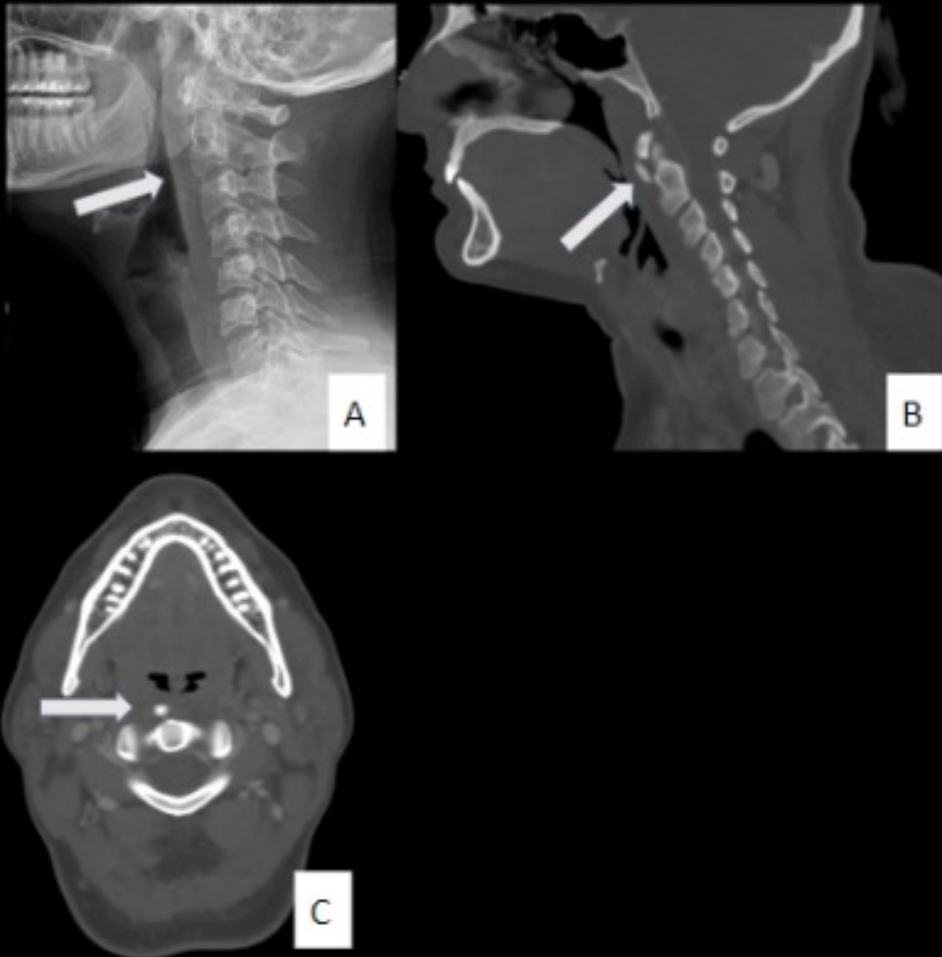


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Clinical Presentation

- 40 y.o. female with a history of depression and hypothyroidism who presents to the ED with a chief complaint of neck pain and painful swallowing.
- Patient reports that she was carrying her 6-year-old son for over a mile 6 days ago. The next day, she experienced severe posterior neck pain that has been progressively worsening. Additionally, developed odynophagia. Neck ROM mildly decreased from pain.

Imaging Discussion



Lateral neck Xray showed diffuse prevertebral soft tissue thickening. CT neck confirmed prevertebral soft tissue thickening and showed soft tissue calcifications in the longus colli musculature anterior to C1-C2 right of the midline.

Management and Outcome

- Patient is recommended to use alternating NSAIDs with Tylenol and ibuprofen and that a soft cervical collar for supportive care.

Take Home Points

- Calcific tendonitis of longus colli muscle is a sterile inflammatory condition which could resemble retropharyngeal abscess both on clinical and imaging point of view.
- Absence of peripheral enhancement and lymphadenopathy in the retropharyngeal soft tissue edema and presence of calcification anterior to C1/C2 are the key findings to presume calcific tendonitis over retropharyngeal abscess.

References

- Raggio BS, Ficene SC, Pou J, Moore B. Acute Calcific Tendonitis of the Longus Colli. *Ochsner J.* 2018 Spring;18(1):98-100. PMID: 29559880; PMCID: PMC5855435.