

# Calcific tendinitis of the longus colli muscle: A rare cause of neck pain

A 35-year-old woman was admitted to our hospital with cervical pain for 2 months. She had no history of trauma. The physical examination and lateral cervical spine radiographs were normal. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a fluid collection within the prevertebral soft tissues with calcification in the proximal fibers of the longus colli muscle [Figure 1]. Computed tomography (CT) confirmed calcifications within the longus colli muscle and tendon [Figure 2]. The imaging findings were consistent with calcific tendinitis of the longus colli muscle. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug treatment was initiated. The patient reported resolution of the symptoms within 3 weeks. Calcific tendinitis of the longus colli is an acute inflammation condition of the longus colli tendon, which is related to calcium hydroxyapatite deposition in the superior oblique fibers of the longus colli muscles.<sup>[1,2]</sup> The differential diagnosis includes spinal tuberculosis, retropharyngeal abscess, cervical osteomyelitis, spondylodiscitis, meningitis, and tumors. Treatment with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication and avoidance of aggravating neck movements help to reduce the symptoms.

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### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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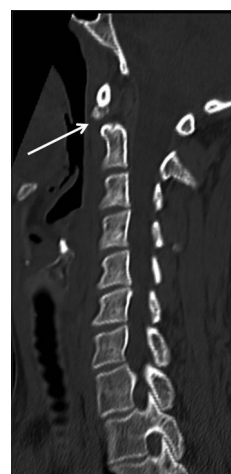
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**Figure 1:** Sagittal T2-weighted magnetic resonance image showing fluid collection extending within the prevertebral soft tissues (arrow), with calcification in the proximal fibers of the longus colli muscle



**Figure 2:** Sagittal computed tomography image showing calcifications (arrow) within the longus colli muscle and tendon and fluid collection within the prevertebral soft tissues


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