I have Good News! You don’t have Cancer Cervical Rib Mimicking Supraclavicular Neoplasia

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Clinical Image

Introduction: Supraclavicular triangle is the neck region where benign/malignant neoplasms, inflammatory and congenital masses are frequently located. In this study, we aimed to present a 19-year-old female patient operated for Cervical Rib (CR) that mimicked supraclavicular neoplasia and leading to Thoracic Outlet Syndrome (TOS).

Case presentation: Thorax CT of the case, which was referred to our department with malignancy in mind and represented as painful, hard, palpable in the form of a mass, located in left supraclavicular area, was reported as: ‘Left CR is articulating with exostosis originating from the 1st left rib. Reported a kink that resulted in >50% narrowing of the subclavian artery due to fibrotic bands extending between the CR and the first rib’ (Figure 1 and 2). With clinical and radiological findings, arterial TOS were diagnosed by scalenotomy+CR resection+excision of fibrotic bands with supraclavicular approach (Figure 3).

Discussion: CR is an extra rib originating from the 7th cervical vertebra. The supraclavicular
triangle can be recognised as a rigid and fixed mass by deep palpation. Therefore, supraclavicular triangle may be confused with the neoplasia, as noted in our case [1,2]. It may lead to TOS, in which case surgical resection and/or physical therapy rehabilitation is performed. Keeping CR in mind for the differential diagnosis of supraclavicular mass will protect the patient from unnecessary examination and anxiety of malignancy [3,4].

References