



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

Yusuf Kahya, Bülent Mustafa Yenigün and Ayten Kayı Cangır*

Department of Thoracic Surgery, Ankara University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

Keywords

Cervical rib; Thoracic outlet syndrome; Supraclavicular neoplasia

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

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*Correspondence:

Ayten Kayı Cangır, Department of Thoracic Surgery, Ankara University School of Medicine, İbni Sina Hospital, 06100 Sıhhiye, Ankara, Turkey, Tel: +90-505-5025190; E-mail: Ayten.K.Cangir@medicine.ankara.edu.tr

Received Date: 04 Sep 2017

Accepted Date: 13 Nov 2017

Published Date: 20 Nov 2017

Citation:

Kahya Y, Yenigün BM, Cangır AK. I have Good News! You don't have Cancer Cervical Rib Mimicking Supraclavicular Neoplasia. Clin Surg. 2017; 2: 1746.

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Figure 1: Appearance of cervical rib.



Figure 2: 3D reconstruction of thorax CT at the supine position.

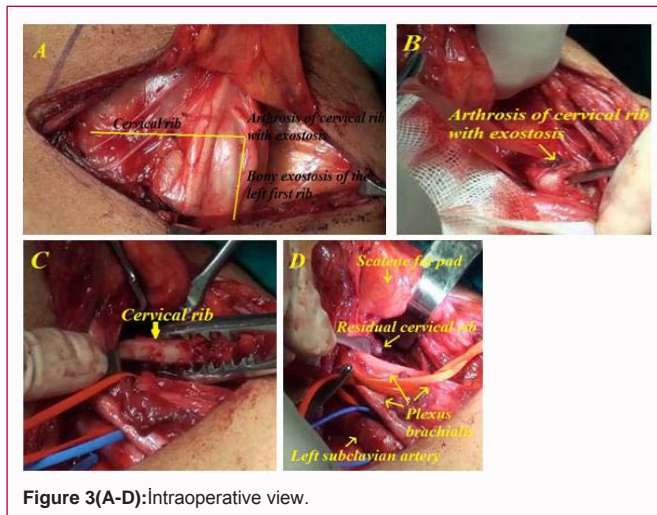


Figure 3(A-D): Intraoperative view.

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].

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