

Pictures in Clinical Medicine

Crowned Dens Syndrome Associated with hyperuricemia

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A 71-year-old man presented to the hospital clinic with a 1-day history of cervical pain. He was treated hyperuricemia for 30 years. He had very limited cervical range of motion because of the pain, but there was no redness, warmth, or swelling of the neck. The laboratory data were consistent with a C-reactive protein level of 2.15 mg/dL, uric acid 11.4 mg/dL. Cervical computed tomography demonstrated calcification of the transverse ligament of the atlas (Panel yellow arrow) and he was diagnosed as having crowned dens syndrome. This is a rare disease characterized by the presence of calcification on the dens¹⁾. The chondroid cell in transverse ligament around the odontoid process causes the disease²⁾. The risk factors of this disease include age, joint trauma, serious illness, hemochromatosis, electrolyte abnormalities, and endocrine disorders. Treatment was initiated with an oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. On day 8, his symptoms of cervical pain disappeared.

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