Acute cervical pain and dysphagia in a 43-year-old man

F. Desmots a,∗, R. Derkenne b, N. Couphey a, B. Martin a, C. Gabaudan a, Y. Geffroy a

a Service d’imagerie médicale, hôpital d’instruction des armées A.-Laveran, BP 60149, 13384 Marseille cedex 13, France
b Service d’oto-rhino-laryngologie, hôpital d’instruction des armées A.-Laveran, BP 60149, 133384 Marseille cedex 13, France

Case report

A 43-year-old patient without noteworthy antecedents consulted his attending physician for dysphagia and diffuse cervical pain that has been evolving for three days. The patient was sub-febrile (38 °C). The clinical examination detected stiffness of the neck without neurological disorder. The ORL examination did not detect any significant anomaly, in particular in the tonsil region. The lab tests revealed mild hyperleukocytosis (12,000 GB/L) with neutrophils (11,000 G/L) and an ascension of C-reactive protein (60 mg/L). A cervical scan with the injection of iodine-based contrast products was carried out (Figs. 1 and 2).
What is your diagnosis?

After reading the case report, what diagnosis would you choose from the following proposals:
- retropharyngeal abscess;
- cervical spondyldiskitis;
- calcific retropharyngeal tendinitis;
- retropharyngeal cellulitis;
- acute inflammatory rheumatoid arthritis.

Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest concerning this article.

Acknowledgements

Dr Jean-Jacques Pinot.