

 IMAGES OF SPINE CARE

## Fishbone in paravertebral space

A 37-year-old man was referred to our clinic after swallowing a fishbone that had become stuck in his throat. The fishbone was of *Pelteobagrus fulvidraco*, a common species in West China. The patient had unsuccessfully attempted to clear away the fishbone by swallowing additional food. Esophagoscopy performed in the local hospital was unable to identify any foreign body. A cervical enhanced computed tomography scan revealed that the entire fishbone had passed through the esophagus to the paravertebral space, with swelling of the surrounding tissues (Figs. 1 and 2). The fishbone was

dangerously close to the left vertebral artery. An exploratory surgery by an anterior approach was performed and the fishbone was found in the musculi longus cervicis at the C3~C4 level. The fishbone was removed intact. No esophagus fistula or infection symptom was detected after surgery or at 1 month follow-up.

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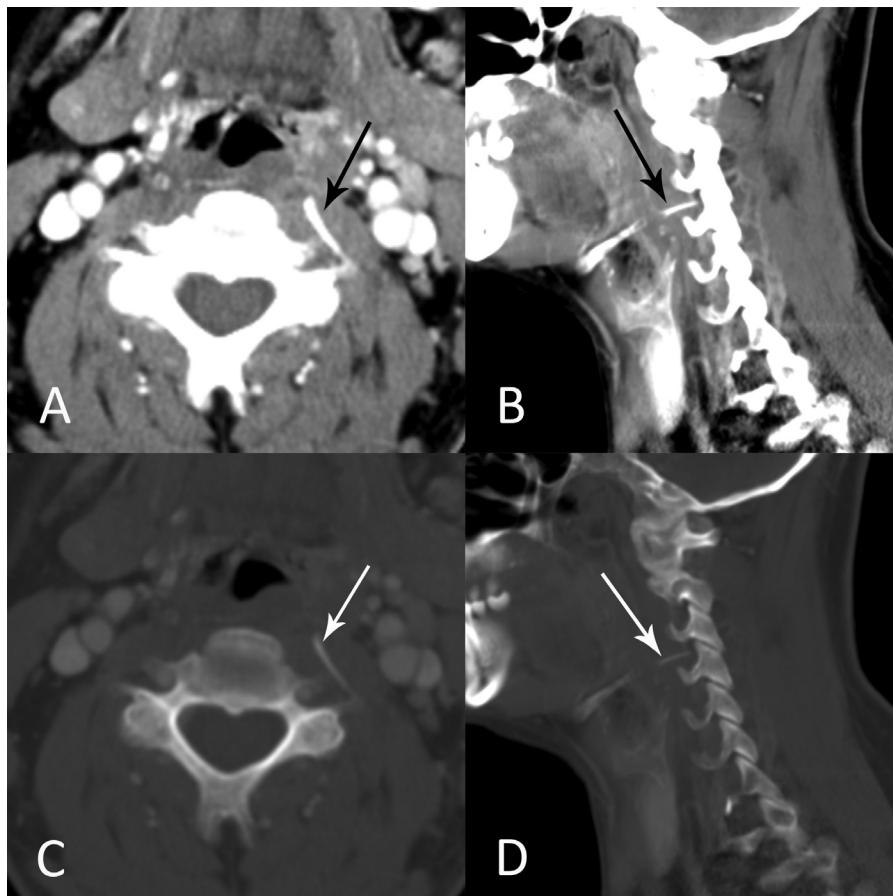


Fig. 1. CT showed a fishbone passed through the esophagus to the paravertebral space, with swelling of surrounding tissues.

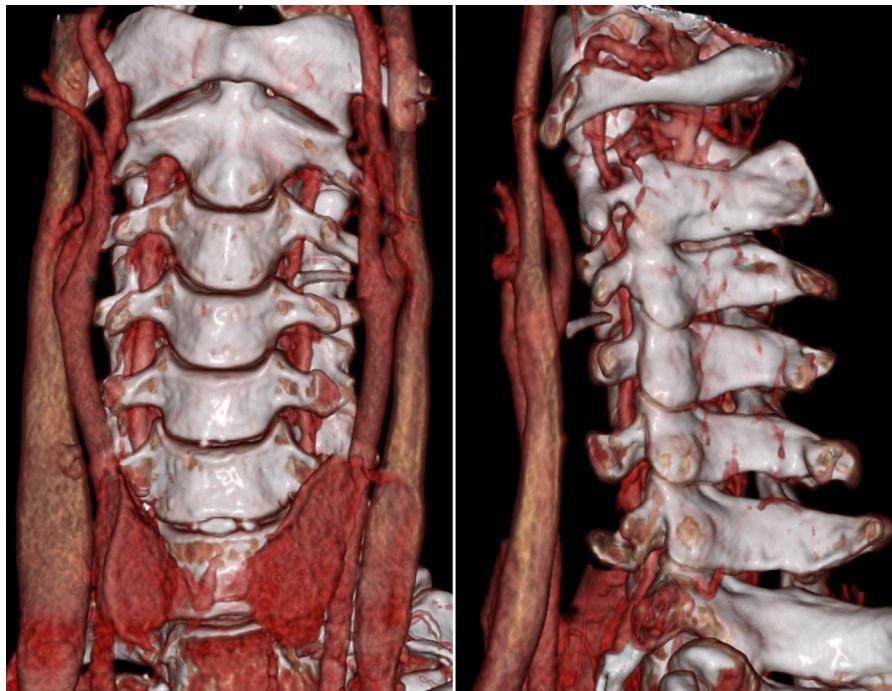


Fig. 2. Cervical-enhanced CT reconstruction showed the fishbone was located on the left before the C3~C4 intervertebral space. It was dangerously close to the left vertebral artery.

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