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IMAGES OF SPINE CARE

Gorham's disease—vanishing bone of the cervical spine

A 25-year-old male patient presented with neck pain. Cervical spine magnetic resonance imaging demonstrated a mass isointense to muscle on T1- and T2-weighted images with moderate enhancement in the C6 posterior elements (Figs. 1 and 2). A small right scapula cystic lesion was also seen (Fig. 2). Computed tomography revealed the C6 lesion as a destructive vanishing bone tumor, as well as small lucent lesions in the vertebrae, right scapula, and second right

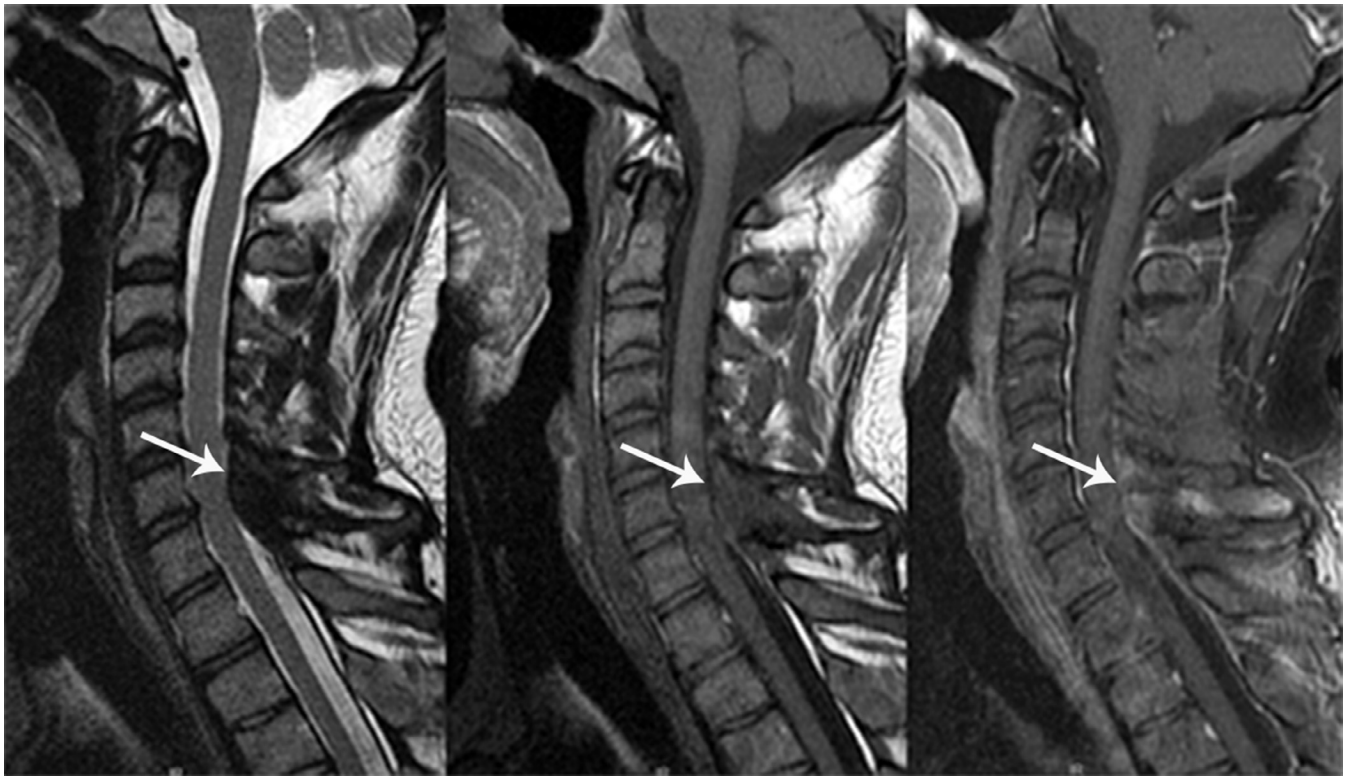

Fig. 1. Sagittal T2-weighted MR images of the cervical spine through the level of C6 (Left, Middle, Right) showed a mass isointense to muscle on T1- and T2-weighted images with moderate enhancement (arrows).

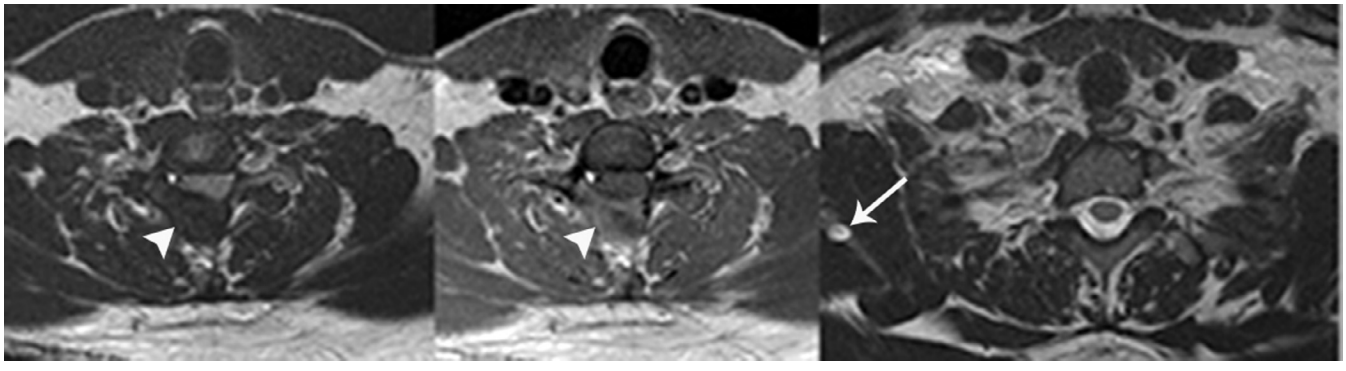

Fig. 2. The mass (arrowheads) was isointense to muscle on T2-weighted axial MR image (Left) and showed moderate enhancement on postcontrast axial T1-weighted MR image (Middle). A small right scapula cystic lesion (arrow) was also seen (Right).

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Fig. 3. Sagittal reformatted CT image (A) showed a destructive vanishing bone tumor in the C6 posterior elements (arrow). Coronal reformatted CT images showed small lucent lesions (arrows) in the right scapula (B), vertebra (C), and second right anterior costa (D).

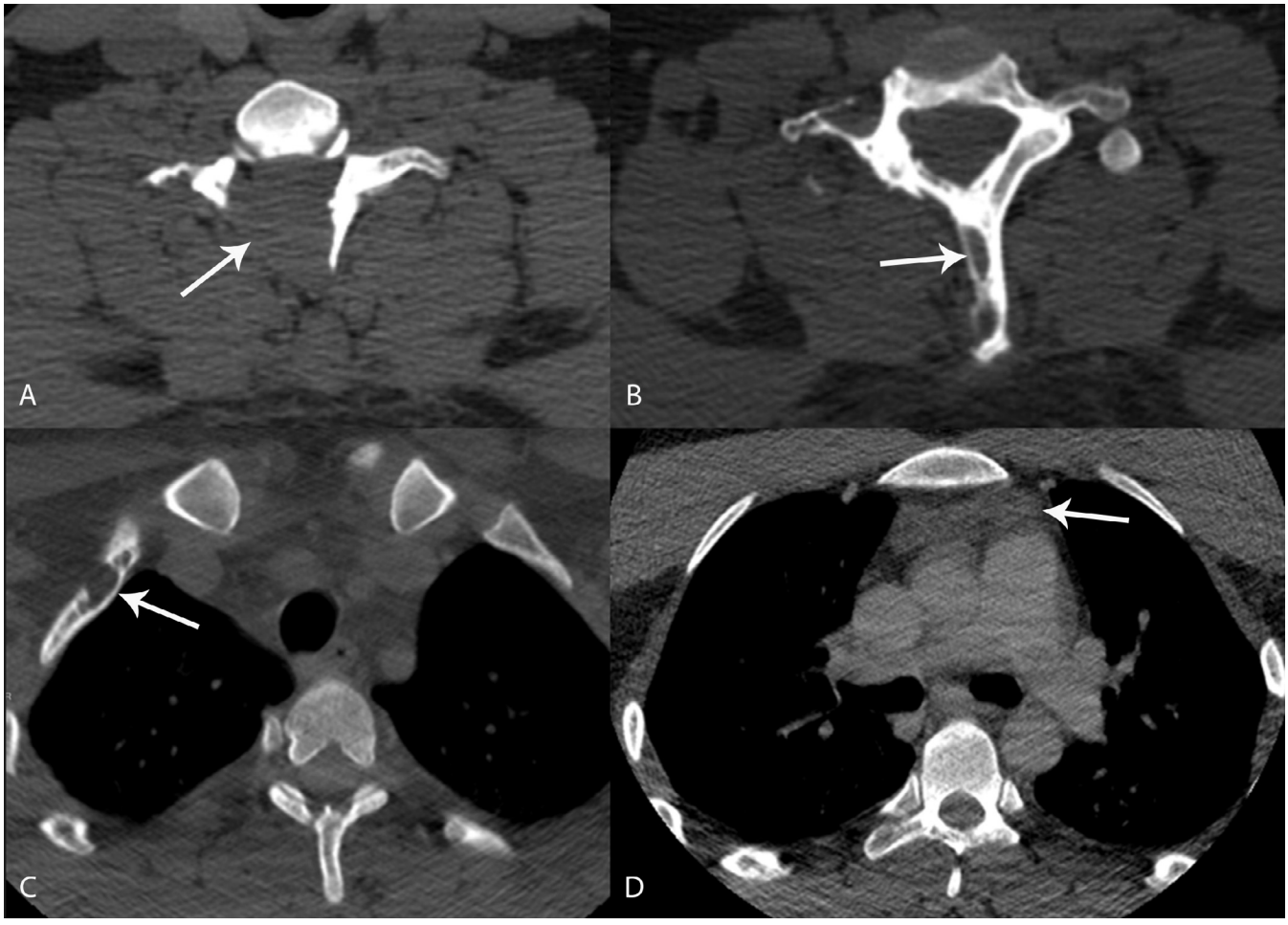

Fig. 4. Axial CT scans showed a destructive vanishing bone tumor in the C6 vertebra (A), lucent lesions in the T1 vertebra (B), and second right anterior costa (C) (arrows). Fat density in the second right anterior costa lesion suggested benignity. A very low density mass compatible with lymphangioma was found in the anterior mediastinum (D) (arrow).

anterior costa (Figs. 3 and 4). A fat density in the second right anterior costa lesion suggested benignity (Fig. 4). A low density mass compatible with lymphangioma was found in the anterior mediastinum (Fig. 4). The radiological diagnosis was Gorham's disease. A resection of the C6 vertebra lesion was performed and pathology demonstrated an angiomatous lesion.

Gorham's disease (idiopathic massive osteolysis, vanishing bone disease, or disappearing bone disease), an aggressive form of osseous angiomatosis, is very rare in the spine [1].

Reference

[1] Barman A, Bhide R, Viswanathan A, George J, Thomas R, Tharion G. Gorham's disease of the spine. Neurorehabilitation 2013;33:121–6.

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