Unusual Cause of Asymptomatic Neck Swelling

Sir,
Carotid artery aneurysm is a rare cause of asymptomatic neck mass, which is very often misdiagnosed and underappreciated. We report a case of 57-year-old male patient presented with asymptomatic left sided neck swelling. Examination revealed a firm, non-tender, non-pulsatile 6 cm × 4 cm ellipsoid swelling with the presence of carotid bruit [Figure 1]. Computed tomography angiogram and reconstructed 3D posteroanterior imaging of the carotid artery revealed a partially thrombosed fusiform aneurysm arising at the origin of left internal carotid artery [Figure 2a and b]. The aneurysm measured 5.0 cm × 3.8 cm with calcified plaques within the left external carotid artery. He was asymptomatic and treated with aspirin (75 mg/day).

Carotid artery aneurysm is caused by trauma, atherosclerosis, connective tissue disease, vasculitis, radiation therapy and infections.[1] The treatment includes aneurysm resection with reconstruction or primary anastomosis and antiplatelet therapy.[2] Although rare, it may be considered in the differential diagnosis of a lateral neck mass even if they are non-pulsatile and needs careful attention before surgical intervention.

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References