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Abstract

A case of retropharyngeal hematoma induced by whiplash injury

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Whiplash injury commonly seen in automobile accident. This type of acceleration-deceleration injury may rarely lead to unfavorable outcomes as in the case of retropharyngeal hematoma. Because this lesion has the possibility of compressing the potential airway acutely or gradually, not only the rapid assessment and treatment but also closed observation are needed.

We report a case of a 20-year-old man, who sustained a whiplash injury from contact with the headrest of his seat after his car was involved in a rollover. He had no symptom except posterior neck pain initially, but complainedodynophagia and acute dyspnea after 10 hours of admission. The diagnostic work-up comprising lateral radiograph, CT imaging disclosed the rare constellation of a retropharyngeal hematoma with cervical spine fractures. Medical treatment and close observation were sufficient for the patient because he had no progressive dyspnea or major dysphagia.

Key Words: Whiplash injury, Retropharyngeal hematoma, Dyspnea

(whiplash injury) 가 가 (lordotic curvature) (1).

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(whiplash injury)

1

(Fig. 1).

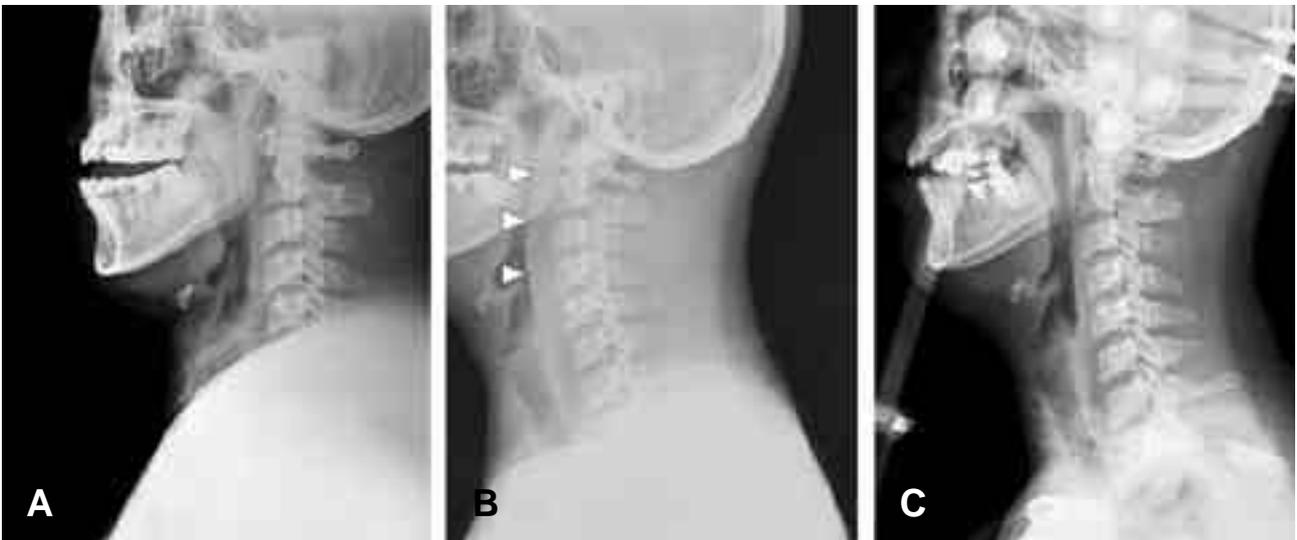


Fig. 1. Soft tissue view of lateral neck x-ray film. Initial film shows fracture on spinous process of C1. Widening of retropharyngeal space is not marked (A). There is diffuse soft tissue swelling of the retropharynx (arrow heads) at HD#2 (B). Almost normal width of retropharyngeal soft tissue at HD#21 (C).

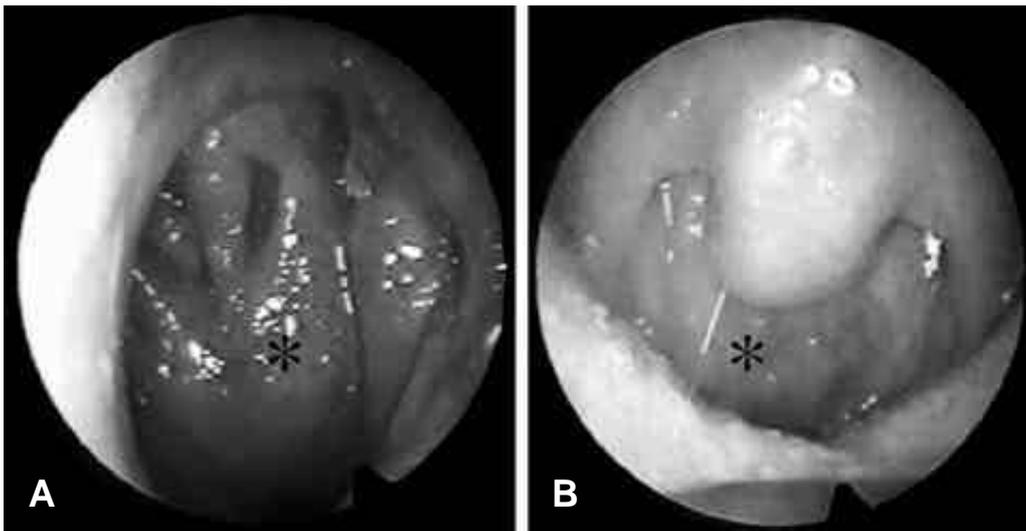


Fig. 2. Reddish bulging and some degree of petechiae on the posterior pharyngeal wall (asterisk) can be identified by fiberoptic endoscope (A) and direct inspection (B).

10
 20 mm
 (Fig. 2).
 2 6
 14 mm
 21
 가 mm 가
 (Fig. 3).
 1 —
 , 1 가
 7 가
 (Fig. 4).
 5 가 2
 8

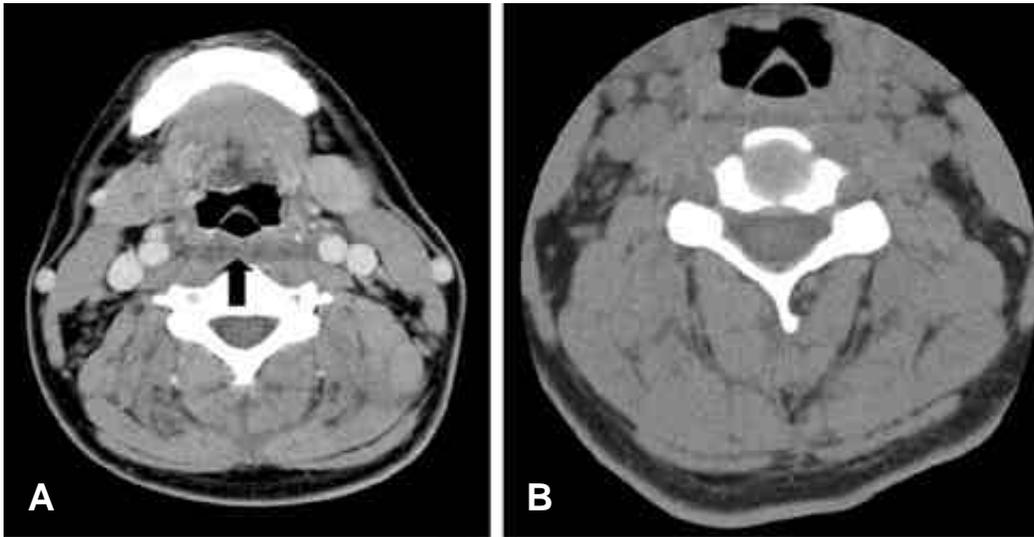


Fig. 3. Axial computed tomography scans. It shows slightly low to intermediate density and widening of retropharyngeal space (black arrow) at HD#2 (A), and decreased widening of retropharyngeal soft tissue at HD#5 (B).

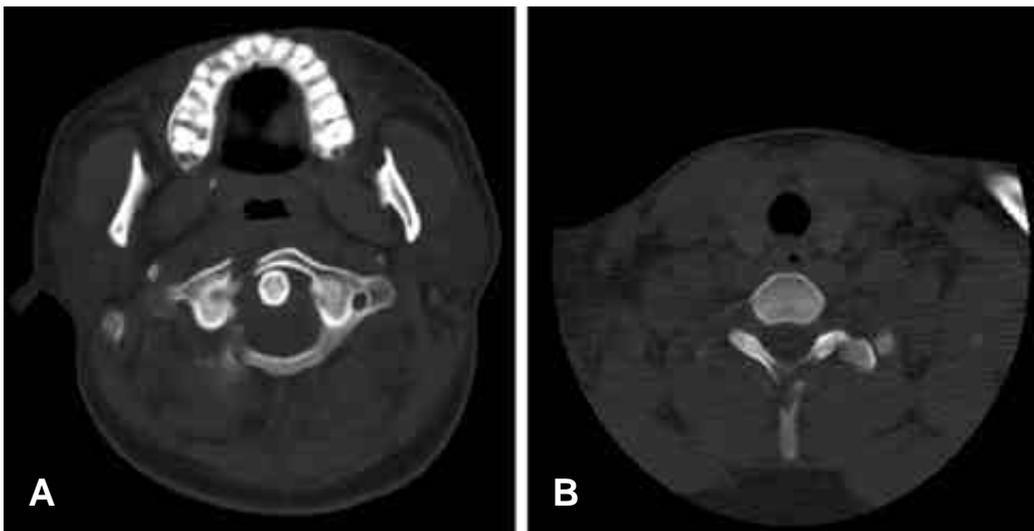


Fig. 4. Axial computed tomography scans. It shows Jefferson fracture of atlas, fracture on Rt. anterior & posterior arch of C1 (A) and fracture on spinous process of C7 (B).

(buccopharyngeal fascia), (3,6,12).
 (alar fascia) (observation)
 4 (carina) (drainage)
 (2). 2~3
 가 , 4
 가 (transoral aspiration)
 (3,4). (external drainage) (7,12,16).
 (great vessel trauma), 가 가
 (vascular aneurysm), (15,17).
 (hemorrhagic parathyroid adenoma),
 (stellate ganglion block), (cardiac catheterization),
 (5-12).
 가 (12,15).
 (longus coli muscle)
 가 (transverse foramen)
 가 (avulsion) 24~72
 (1). 가 가 (12).
 (7).
 가
 Munoz (Capp's triad) (1,3,4).
 (ecchymosis) (13). Wholey
 600 60 가 가
 2 가 가
 3.4 mm(1~7 mm), 6
 가 14 mm(9~22 mm)
 (14).
 가 가

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