Spontaneous Internal Jugular Vein Thrombosis Associated with Lung Cancer

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A 70-year-old woman was admitted to the emergency room at our hospital with painful swelling on the left posterior triangle of her neck that had progressively worsened over three days. A physical examination revealed normal findings with the exception of diffuse fullness in the left posterior neck. A contrasted computed tomography (CT) scan of the neck and thorax revealed a left jugular venous thrombus and the presence of a mass in the left upper lobe that measured approximately 5×3.5 cm (Picture). No additional thrombi were discovered in the systemic venous system. A transbronchial biopsy of the mass revealed the presence of non-small cell lung cancer. The internal jugular vein (IJV) is a rare site for spontaneous thrombosis, and IJV thrombosis is usually a result of intravenous drug abuse, prolonged central venous catheterization, invasive head and neck infections or head and neck trauma. However, the findings concerning the relationship between IJV thrombosis and distant malignancies have been reported previously (1, 2). Armand Trousseau was the first to describe this relationship between venous thromboembolic features and malignancies, such as lung cancer, and therefore this condition is known as Trousseau’s syndrome (1).

Author’s disclosure of potential Conflicts of Interest (COI).
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References