An Uncommon Diagnostic Algorithm for a Common Condition

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Picture.

A 62-year-old man presented to our emergency department with a history of dizziness lasting for three weeks. He had no significant past illnesses and took no medications. A neurological examination was unremarkable. An urgent brain CT scan was performed to exclude the possibility of stroke or neoplasia; however, it revealed only cerumen impaction

in the right ear (arrow in Picture). An evaluation by an otorhinolaryngologist confirmed this finding, and proper therapy for earwax removal was suggested.

In the emergency department, radiological examinations often precede clinical evaluations by specialists in order to save time and more promptly reach the correct diagnosis (1, 2). However, in some cases, as in the present case, allowing for a clinical evaluation by a specialist prior to the radiological investigations may yield the correct diagnosis, thus saving costs for the healthcare system and preventing radiation exposure to the patient (1, 2).

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

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