A Case of Antiphospholipid Syndrome with Thrombosis of the Internal Jugular Vein as the Initial Presentation

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We report herein on a case of antiphospholipid syndrome with the thrombosis of the internal jugular vein. A 34-year-old female presented to our department with right-side neck pain. Contrast enhanced computed tomography (CT) revealed enlargement of the right internal jugular vein, with a non-enhancing filling defect in the lumen and peripheral enhancement of the vessel wall, leading to a diagnosis of thrombosis. Additionally, serum lupus anticoagulant tested positive, thus, the diagnosis of antiphospholipid syndrome was confirmed. Subsequently, the patient was treated with intravenous antibiotics, intravenous heparin and oral warfarin. Her swelling and pain resolved slowly and she was discharged on warfarin. Follow up at 7 months has revealed no recurrence of her symptoms but persistence of her levels of lupus anticoagulant. We should be aware of the possibility of antiphospholipid syndrome in the management of thrombosis of the internal jugular vein.

Keywords : antiphospholipid syndrome, thrombosis, internal jugular vein, lupus anticoagulant, anticoagulation therapy

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