Tumoral Calcinosis on Neck Region: Case Report

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Purpose
Tumoral calcinosis (TC) is a rare abnormality of unknown etiology. Not more than ten cases of TC in the head and neck region have been reported, with only one case on the neck. We report a case of a Chinese woman with TC on the neck.

Materials & Methods
Female, 21 years old, native of China, with complaint of nonpainful swelling on her left posterior neck, no history of trauma on neck. She was misdiagnosed as nodal tuberculosis and treated for 6 months with the mass gradually growing. The X-ray film showed a big irregular calcification on the left posterior neck region. CT showed a large lobular calcification between the semispinalis muscle and splenius capitis muscle, and had no relation with cervical vertebrae (Fig). Laboratory values including serum phosphorus and serum calcium were within the normal limits.
Results
Tumoral calcinosis is a rare clinical disorder, which often affects major joints. It may occur in all races but most often in blacks, and there is a slight predominance in females in the first or second decades of life.

Conclusion
The patient may show a painless growing mass and no other symptoms except the limitation of movement to some extent. Laboratory data are generally normal or with hyperphosphatemia and elevated 1.25-dihydroxycalciferol. TC has remarkable signs on X-ray or CT with the existence of large, irregular or lobulated calcification in the soft tissue. The diagnosis of tumoral calcinosis is based on the combination of history, laboratory study, and X-ray examination. When appearing in the posterior neck region, the calcification should be differentiate from several kinds of abnormalities such as synovial osteochondromatosis, calcification secondary to hyperparathyroidism, myositis ossificans (localisata or progressiva), scleroderma, dermatomyositis, tuberculosis of lymph nodes, calcified hematoma, and rarely, system lupus erythematosus and carbon monoxide poisoning. Calcified goiter, calcified aneurysm of subclavian artery should also be taken into account if an anterior neck calcification exists.