TIPIC syndrome

Figure 1 Initial imaging

Ultrasound in B-mode (A, B) and color Doppler mode (C) and axial postcontrast T1-weighted MRI (D) show eccentric enhancing abnormal soft tissue (arrows) surrounding the left carotid artery bifurcation, with mild lumen caliber narrowing and no hemodynamic change.

A 31-year-old woman presented with left acute cervical pain. Cervical imaging showed a large pericarotid infiltration (figure 1). A diagnosis of transient perivascular inflammation of the carotid artery (TIPIC) syndrome was made. The patient received steroids with full clinical recovery 12 days after onset. The

Figure 2 Follow-up ultrasound

Follow-up ultrasound in B-mode (A) and color Doppler mode (B) show striking decrease of the perivascular infiltration.

follow-up ultrasound showed striking decrease of the perivascular infiltration, confirming the diagnosis (figure 2).

TIPIC is a newly recognized syndrome¹ that describes a distinct clinicoradiologic entity previously diagnosed as carotidynia,² consisting of transient perivascular inflammation at the level of the carotid bifurcation. Its pathophysiology is unknown. Anti-inflammatory drugs lead to a quick full clinical recovery.

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