Teaching Video NeuroImages: An Uncommon Cause of Hearing Loss

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Neurology® Published Ahead of Print articles have been peer reviewed and accepted for publication. This manuscript will be published in its final form after copyediting, page composition, and review of proofs. Errors that could affect the content may be corrected during these processes.
Search terms: jugular bulb, hearing loss

Publication History: This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Number of Figures: 2

Word count: 150

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Study Funding: The authors report no targeted funding.

Disclosures: Waleed Tariq Siddiqui reports no disclosures relevant to the manuscript Maria Byrne reports no disclosures relevant to the manuscript

Consent and Ethics Review:

The patient has provided her written consent to use of images that display the findings on CT scan and on the video. She has demonstrated a complete understanding that this will be used for educational purposes in medical journals.

Our institute does not require IRB approval for submission of images and case reports.

Author Contributions:

Dr. Waleed Siddiqui: review of the literature, drafting of the case report and final approval

Dr Maria Byrne: critical review and final approval
66-year-old female presented with right sided hearing loss, insidious in onset. Otoscopic examination showed pulsation of tympanic membrane in seated position (video) which diminished upon lying down. CT venogram of auditory canal showed dehiscent right jugular bulb along hypotympanic surface (Figure 1 and 2). A dehiscent jugular bulb develops due to absence of sigmoid plate separating the bulb from middle ear. It appears as blue mass behind tympanic membrane which may distend with Valsalva or internal jugular vein compression. Affected individuals, while often asymptomatic can experience conductive/sensorineural hearing loss, tinnitus or vestibular dysfunction (1). The patient is followed with imaging periodically for disease progression. Over 10 years her hearing has been stable. Neurologists should be familiar with otoscopic appearance of auditory canal dehiscence as tinnitus and vestibular dysfunction is a common presentation. Treatment involves reassurance and follow-up with serial imaging. Surgical or endovascular intervention is reserved for intolerable symptoms (2).

Appendix 1: Authors

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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References:

Figure Legends:

**Video:** Otoscopic examination of the auditory canal showing a pulsatile tympanic membrane.

**CT Venogram Axial View (Figure 1):** Internal Carotid Artery (red arrow) and high riding right jugular bulb (blue arrow) with bony dehiscence that protrudes into the middle ear.

**CT Venogram Coronal View (Figure 2):** Dehiscence of right jugular bulb (blue arrow) with small diverticulum abutting the umbo of the malleus and opacifying the round window.
Teaching Video NeuroImages: An Uncommon Cause of Hearing Loss
Waleed Tariq Siddiqui and Maria Byrne
Neurology published online July 7, 2021
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000012469

This information is current as of July 7, 2021

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