

## IMAGES IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

### UNUSUAL CASE OF CERVICAL SWELLING

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A 5-week-old male infant, previously healthy, was admitted in the Emergency Department with a one-week right cervical swelling leading to restricted cervical movement. The clinical examination revealed a right cervical swelling of about 1 cm mobile that increased in size with muscle contraction. A cervical ultrasound showed a fusiform thickening of the right sternocleidomastoid muscle (SCM) approximately 25 x 10 mm, consistent with Fibromatosis Colli. No cervical lymph nodes with pathological dimensions were identified. The infant had a significant improvement with a biweekly motor physiotherapy during 5 months.

**Figure 1.** Right lateral cervical tumefaction.



*What criteria help differentiate Fibromatosis Colli from analogous neck masses in infants?*

Fibromatosis Colli is an uncommon benign cervical pseudotumor in neonates and infants with a prevalence estimated at 0.4%.<sup>1</sup> This condition involves the proliferation of benign fibrous tissue within the SCM, leading to a spindle-shaped enlargement.<sup>2</sup> It typically presents within the first 8 weeks of life, most frequently in males and it is located on the right side in 73% of cases. The etiology of fibrosis remains elusive; however, potential associations include trauma during pregnancy or at birth, resulting in haemorrhage and subsequent fibrosis.<sup>1,2,3</sup> Ultrasound serves as a crucial diagnostic tool for confirmation and follow-up.<sup>3,4</sup> This lesion can be distinguished from other neck masses,

like rhabdomyosarcoma and neuroblastoma, by its well-defined margins, absence of extension beyond the sternocleidomastoid muscle, normal surrounding fascial planes and no vascular encasement or associated cervical adenopathy.<sup>2</sup> Unlike cystic hygroma and abscess, it lacks fluid content. The tumor has a natural tendency to resolve on its own within 4-8 months of its onset.<sup>3</sup> Conservative approaches such as physical therapy and massage effectively manage the condition, with surgery being seldom necessary and reserved for persistent tumors.<sup>2</sup>

#### Compliance with Ethical Standards

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**Conflict of Interest :** None

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