CASE IMAGE

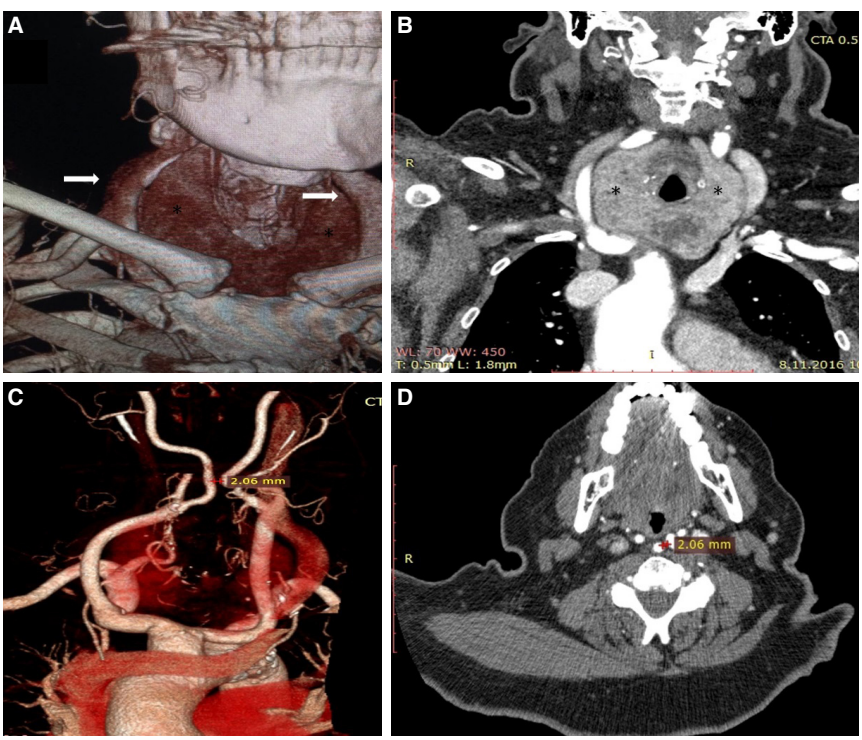
Bovine-type aortic arch and compression of the kissing carotid arteries by a retrosternal goiter: An uncommon cause of carotid bruit

Plonjan guatr nedeniyle komprese olan bovin aortik arkın eşlik ettiği öpüşen karotis arlerler: Karotis üfürümünün nadir bir nedeni

Ahmet Çağrı Aykan[1]
Ayşegül Karadeniz[2]
İsmail Gökhan Çavuşoğlu[2]

[1]Department of Cardiology, Ahi Evren Chest and Cardiovascular Surgery Training and Research Hospital, Trabzon, Turkey
[2]Department of Radiology, Ahi Evren Chest and Cardiovascular Surgery Trainin and Research Hospital, Trabzon, Turkey

A 76-year-old woman presented at the cardiology outpatient clinic with dizziness. She had stable coronary artery disease and a left anterior coronary artery stent had been implanted 6 months earlier. She was on aspirin, clopidogrel, metoprolol, and rosuvastatin therapy. The physical examination was normal, with the exception of a bruit on the left carotid artery and a palpable thyroid gland. An electrocardiogram showed a normal sinus rhythm. An echocardiography examination demonstrated normal cardiac and valvular functions. Her blood chemistry and hemogram analysis were normal. Carotid artery computed tomography angiography then revealed a bovine-type aortic arch, a retrosternal goiter, and at the midline, medially displaced, kinked, and tortuous internal carotid arteries as well as lateral displacement of the common carotid arteries (Figure A-D). Anatomical variations of the extra cranial internal carotid arteries occur in approximately 5% of the general population; however, kissing carotids is very rare. To our knowledge, this is the first case report in the literature describing the combination of a bovine aortic arch, kissing carotid arteries, and a retrosternal goiter. It is important to keep in mind that a bruit over the carotid artery is not always associated with carotid obstruction. Increased carotid flow or turbulence due to either tortuosity or roughening of the vessel by an atherosclerotic plaque may also cause carotid bruit.



Figures– (A, B) Asterisks indicate the large goiter extending to the retrosternal space and laterally displacing the common carotid arteries, shown with arrows. **(C)** Computed tomography angiography revealed a bovine aortic arch, lateral displacement of the common carotid arteries, and medially displaced, kinked, tortuous, kissing carotid arteries. **(D)** A view of the close proximity of the internal carotid arteries.