A CASE OF UNCOMMON VASCULAR RING CAUSING DYSPNEA IN AN ADULT PATIENT

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Vascular rings are relatively rare congenital anomalies of the aortic arch and great vessels. A vascular ring is defined as an abnormal encircling of the trachea and esophagus by the aortic arch and its branches (or remnants). If symptomatic, breathing difficulties and digestive problems are observed in early life. The purpose of this report was to present the case of 25 year-old woman with uncommon vascular malformation that had severe clinical manifestations of dyspnea and digestive problems. The other goal of this article was to present radiologic findings (Computed Tomography Angiography - CTA) and their accuracy in correlation with clinical condition. Reported case is unique because vascular ring is formed by coexistence of two relatively rare vascular malformations (right aortic arch and aberrant left subclavian artery). What is more, in contrast to other reported cases of vascular rings in which respiratory and digestive problems present in early childhood, our patient is a 25 year-old woman with only a short history of breathing problems. Computed Tomography Angiography revealed vascular abnormalities of aortic arch and left subclavian artery causing tightness and partial constriction of trachea and esophagus. This report shows that the problem of symptomatic vascular rings can occur in adult patients and should be taken into consideration in cases of breathing problems of unclear etiology, especially when digestive problems are present or basic chest radiograph reveals right aortic arch. Magnetic Resonance Angiography and Computed Tomography Angiography are the imaging modalities of choice in diagnosing vascular rings. They accurately depict these vascular anomalies.

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