

Giant Cell Arteritis Demonstrating a Thickened Wall of the Aortic Arch

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Abstract : 75-year-old female presented with low grade fever, general fatigue and muscle pain in the shoulders and arms. The erythrocyte sediment rate and the value of C reactive protein were high and chest enhanced CT demonstrated a thickened aortic arch wall. Her head enhanced 3D-CT showed a narrowing and irregular wall of the right superficial temporal artery. Temporal artery biopsy results confirmed the diagnosis of giant-cell arteritis (GCA), and she was diagnosed as polymyalgia rheumatica complicated with GCA. When thickening of wall of aorta is observed in elderly patients with a continuous advanced inflammatory reaction of uncertain cause, a small invasive imaging scan is needed to confirm the GCA, positively, even in the absence of the typical symptoms of GCA.

Key words : Giant-cell arteritis, Aortitis, Polymyalgia rheumatica