

INTRODUCTION

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CASE IMAGES

ADDITIONAL IMAGES

FINDINGS

DIAGNOSIS

DISCUSSION

REFERENCES

ATV collision with neck
pain



INTRODUCTION

Sagittal CT of the cervical spine

CASE IMAGES

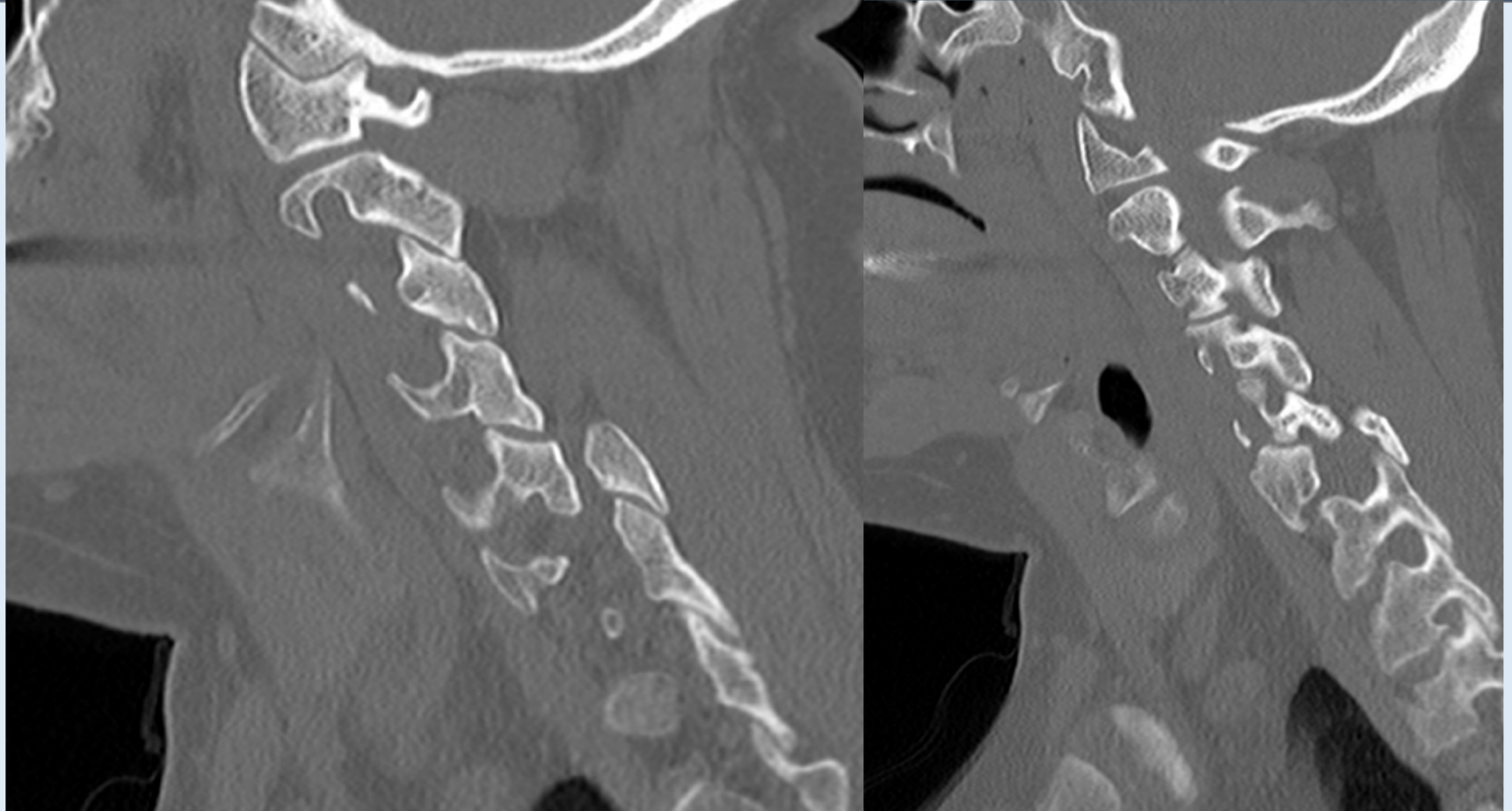
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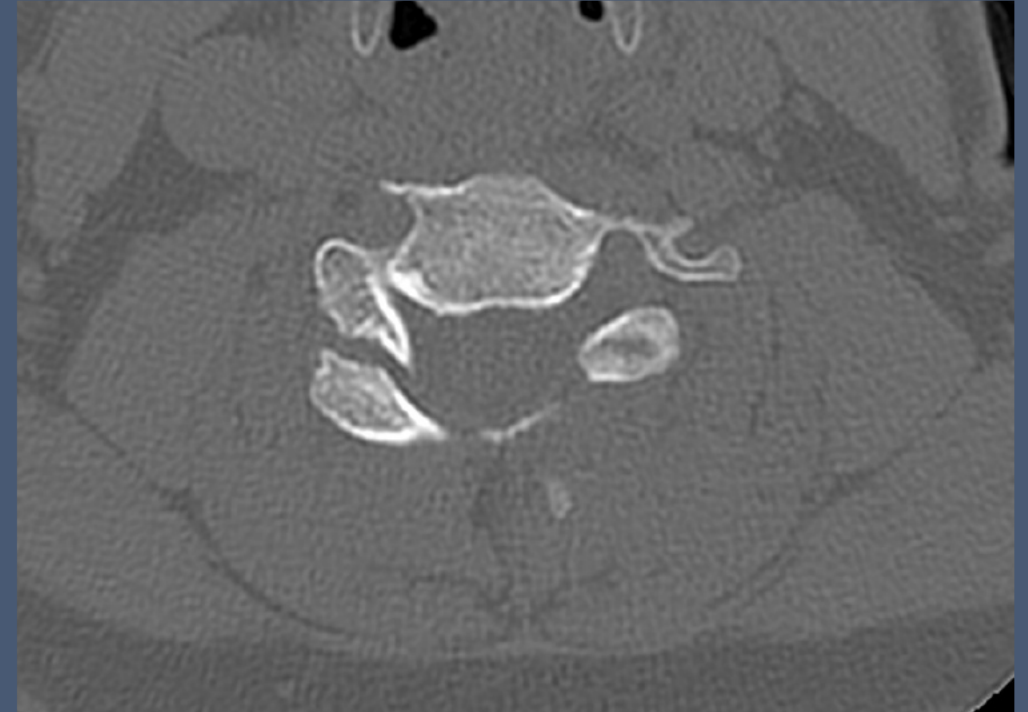


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Axial CT of the cervical spine

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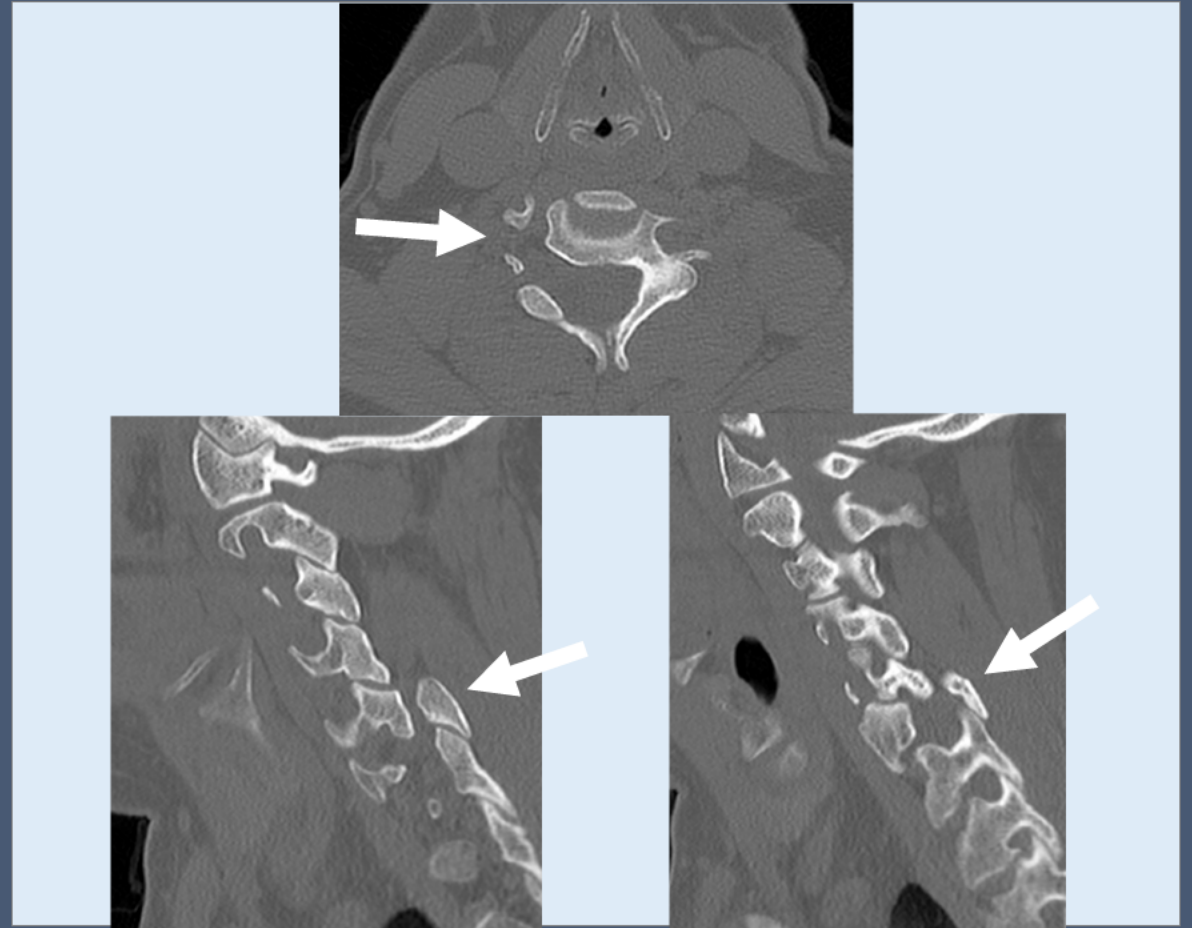
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Findings

Axial and sagittal CT demonstrates congenital absence of the right C6 pedicle with false appearance of a unilateral jumped facet at C5-C6 on the sagittal reformat.





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Diagnosis

Diagnosis:

Congenital absence of a
unilateral C6 pedicle

Differential Diagnosis:

Unilateral jumped facet



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Discussion

Key imaging features:

- Rare congenital anomaly unilaterally affecting a cervical spine vertebra (most commonly C6, as in this case).
- The ipsilateral neural foramen will appear enlarged.
- Parasagittal plane on the affected side has the false appearance of a jumped facet.
- Dysplasia of ipsilateral transverse process, lamina, and/or adjacent facets may also be seen.

Pearls:

- Reported cases have often been incidentally identified on trauma scans. Appearance can mimic a unilateral jumped facet in the setting of trauma, potentially leading to misdiagnosis and unnecessary treatment (i.e. spinal traction).



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1. Wiener MD, Martinez S, Forsberg DA. Congenital absence of a cervical spine pedicle: clinical and radiologic findings. *AJR Am J Roentgenol.* 1990; 155(5): 1037-41.
2. Sheehan J, Kaptain G, Sheehan J, Jane J Sr. Congenital absence of a cervical pedicle: report of two cases and review of the literature. *Neurosurgery.* 2000; 47(6): 1439-42.