

# Axillary Web Syndrome

Case study

# Presenting case

- 47 yo female otherwise healthy
- One week ago: thrombus in IJV and multiple superficial vein clots in upper arm
- Commenced blood thinners
- Plan: see vascular surgeon



# Presenting case

- Palpable subcutaneous cord in right arm extending into axilla
- Main complaint is intermittent 'tight discomfort'
- No swelling/redness



# History

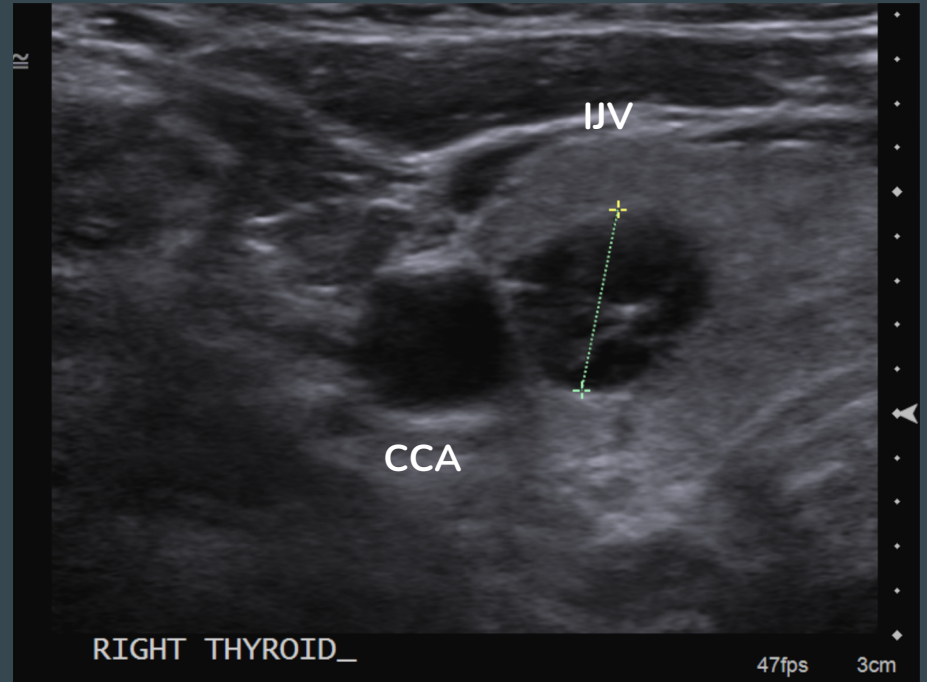
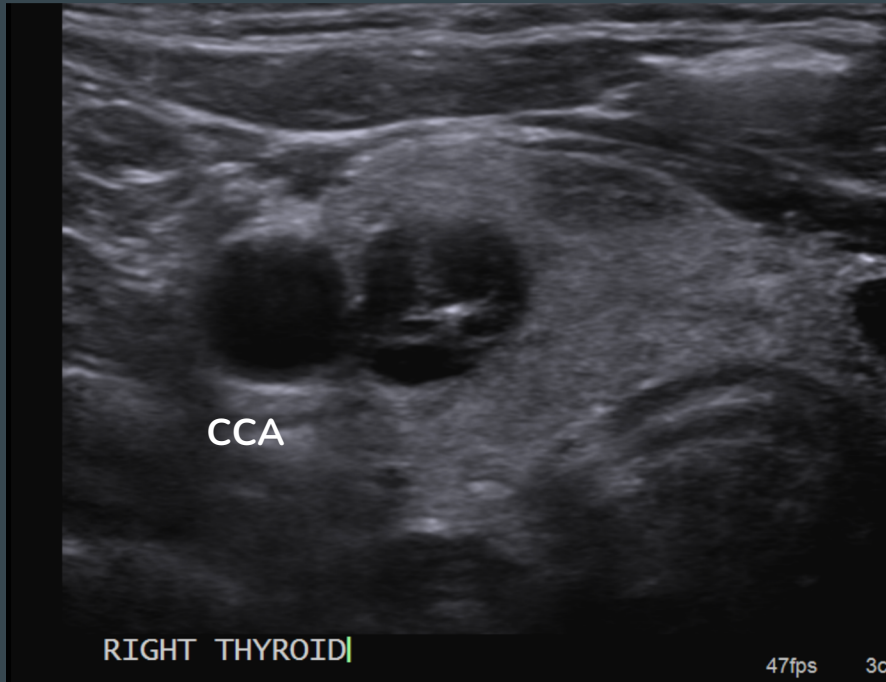
- No previous history or family history of DVT
- No recent trauma/central catheterisation
- Recent mammograms appear normal

## Ultrasound findings

- No evidence of DVT or STP
- No obvious superficial structures evident in place of 'cord'
- Surgeon ceases blood thinners

# Ultrasound findings

- Thyroid cyst → aspirated → shown to be benign



$A = \pi r^2$   
 $C = 2\pi r$

$V = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h$

$V = \pi r^2 h$

	30°	45°	60°
sin	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
cos	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
tan	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	1	$\sqrt{3}$

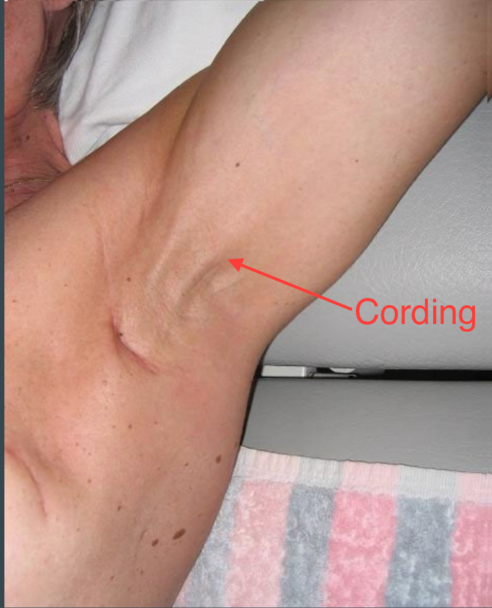
$\int \sin x dx = -\cos x + C$   
 $\int \frac{dx}{\cos^2 x} = \operatorname{tg} x + C$   
 $\int \operatorname{tg} x dx = -\ln|\cos x| + C$   
 $\int \frac{dx}{\sin x} = \ln\left|\frac{x}{2}\right| + C$   
 $\int \frac{dx}{a^2 + x^2} = \frac{1}{a} \operatorname{arctg} \frac{x}{a} + C$   
 $\int \frac{dx}{x} = \frac{1}{x} \ln|x| + C$

$\tan(\theta)$   
 $\theta/\text{rad}$

$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$   
 $a(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a}) = 0$   
 $x^2 + 2\frac{b}{2a}x + (\frac{b}{2a})^2 - (\frac{b}{2a})^2 + \frac{c}{a} = 0$   
 $(x + \frac{b}{2a})^2 - \frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2} = 0$

But what is the cord?

# Axillary Web



# Syndrome

- Lymphatic cording
- Painful with shoulder abduction
- Typically the result of surgical treatment for breast cancer
  - damage to lymphatic system from lymph node removal
  - increased lymphatic fluid coagulation forms visible cords

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# Axillary Web Syndrome

- Unknown etiology for this patient

> [J Can Chiropr Assoc.](#) 2016 Dec;60(4):294-298.

## **Atypical presentation of axillary web syndrome (AWS) in a male squash player: a case report**

[Patrick Welsh](#)<sup>1</sup>, [David Gryfe](#)<sup>2</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: [28065989](#) PMCID: [PMC5178020](#)

[Free PMC article](#)

# Treatment/Outcome

- Physiotherapy was recommended
- Discomfort settled spontaneously
- Cord eventually disappeared after 3-4 months

**THANKS FOR LISTENING :)**