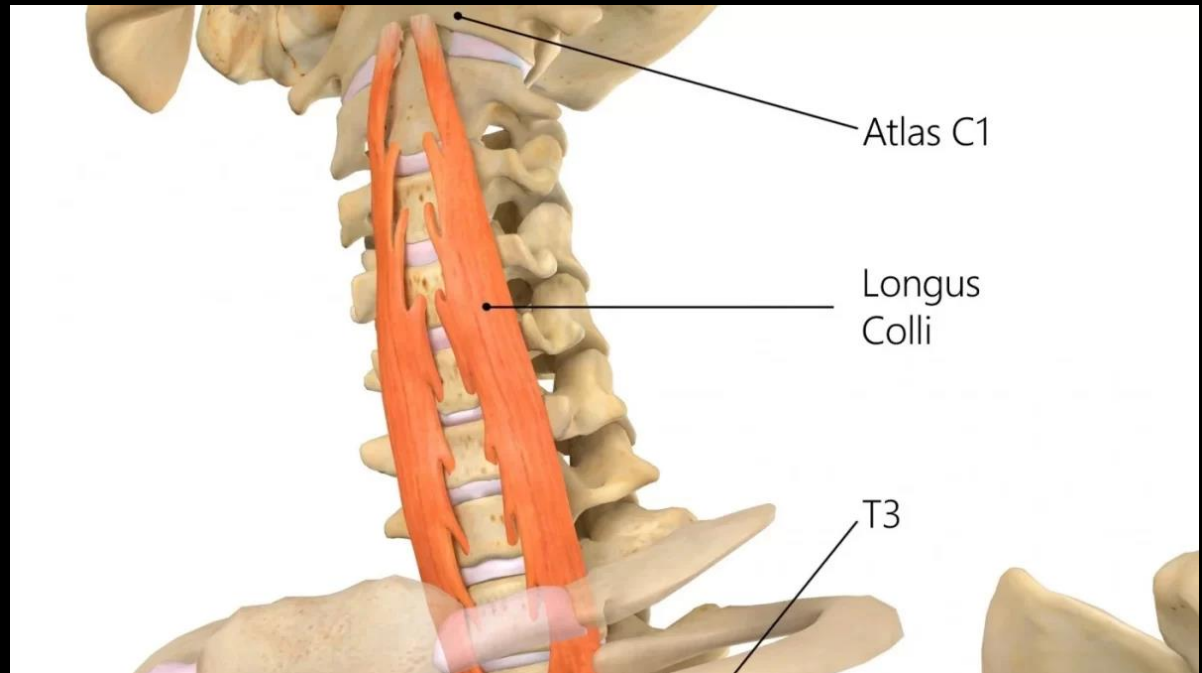
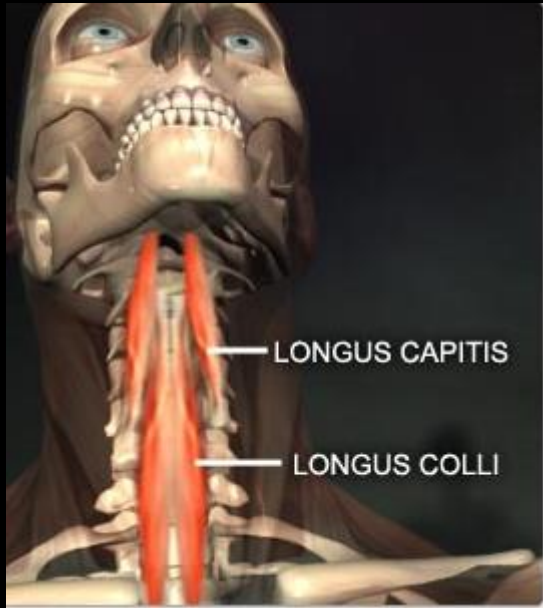


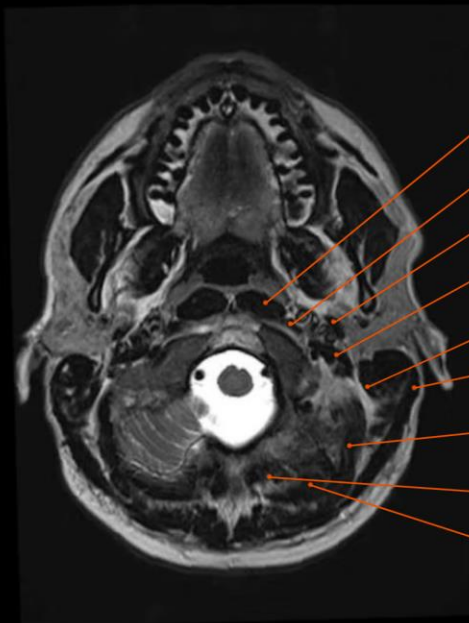
Calcific tendinitis of the longus colli muscle

- inflammatory/granulomatous response to the deposition of calcium hydroxyapatite crystals in the tendons of the longus colli muscle.
- It is sometimes more generically known as **calcific prevertebral tendinitis** or, less accurately, as **retropharyngeal calcific tendinitis**.

Imaging

- Amorphous calcifications are typically seen in the superior fibers of the longus colli muscle tendons (at the C1-C2 level) .
- Occasionally the inferior fibers may be affected, as low down as T3. The longus colli muscles may also appear hypo-attenuating due to edema.
- Small retropharyngeal effusions and edema of the adjacent prevertebral soft tissues are also usually seen.
- Importantly, enhancement around the effusion is usually minimal and if present, should shift the diagnosis towards a retropharyngeal abscess ³.
- Adenopathy and bone destruction, likewise, should suggest alternative diagnosis





|Longus capitis

|Rectus capitis anterior

|Stylohyoid

|Rectus capitis lateralis

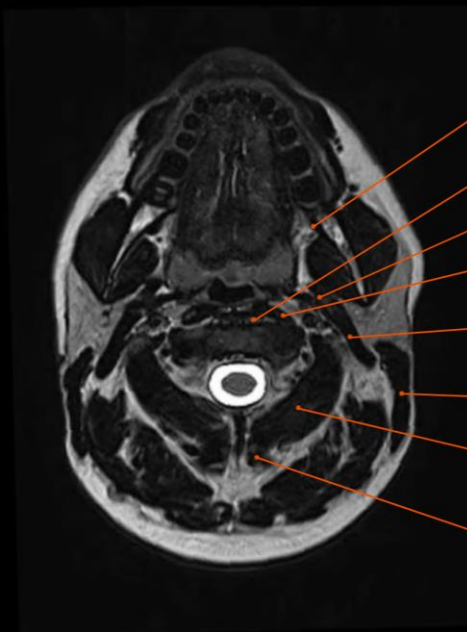
|Digastric (Posterior belly)

|Sternocleidomastoid

|Obliquus capitis superior

|Rectus capitis posterior minor

|Rectus capitis posterior major



|Mylohyoid

|Longus colli

|Stylohyoid

|Longus capitis

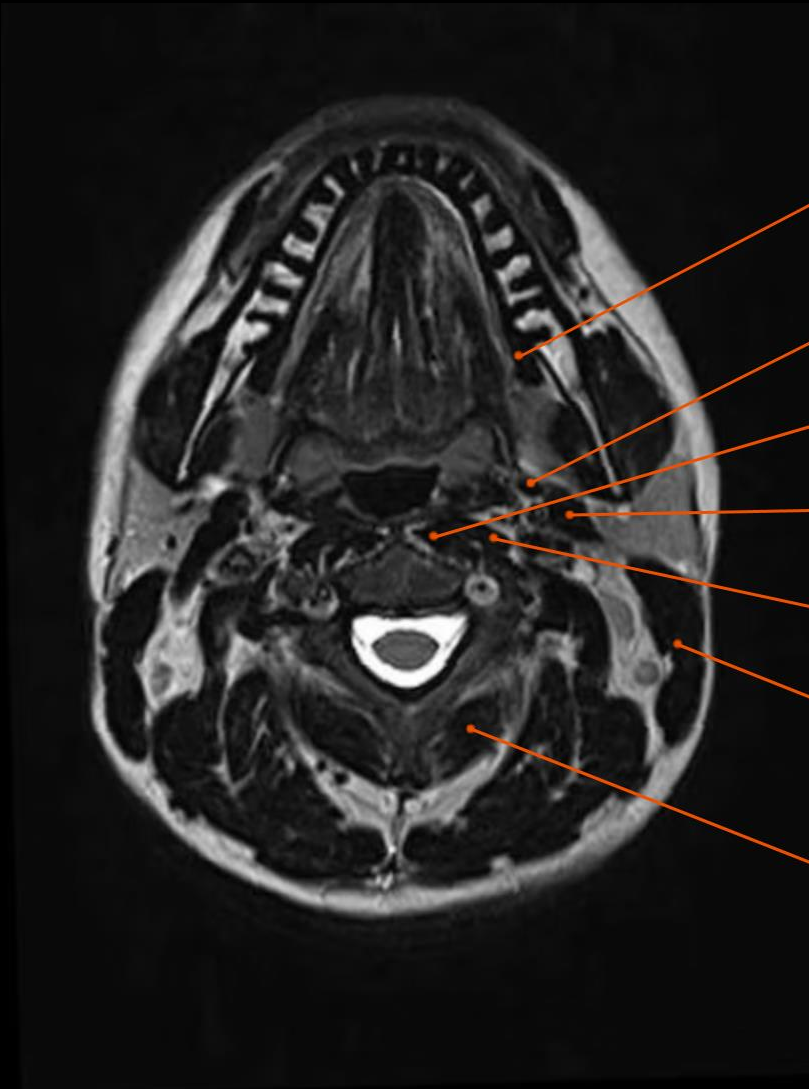
|Digastric (Posterior belly)

|Sternocleidomastoid

|Obliquus capitis inferior

|Rectus capitis posterior major





| Mylohyoid

| Stylohyoid

| Longus colli

| Digastric (Posterior
| belly)

| Longus capitis

| Sternocleidomastoid

| Obliquus capitis
| inferior





