

Crowned dens syndrome

- Inflammatory condition resulting from crystal deposition in cruciform and alar ligaments surrounding the dens, appearing as a radiopaque 'crown' surrounding the top of the dens.
- Presents with pain and increased inflammatory markers.
- Acute presentation due to crystal deposition in the periodontoid soft tissues, and should not be used for chronic periodontoid pseudotumour (also caused by CPPD).
- As such the term should not be used unless inflammatory symptoms and pain are present ⁴.
- Although the pathology is very similar, crowned dens syndrome should not be confused with calcific tendinitis of the longus colli muscles (also due to HADD).

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Crowned dens syndrome

- Crowned dens syndrome is usually the result of deposition of calcium pyrophosphate dehydrate (CPPD) crystals or hydroxyapatite crystals
- Usually requires only medical management with anti-inflammatory agents. It usually spontaneously resolves although duration is variable (from days to months)
- In some cases, the inflammatory pannus can result in cervical cord compression, and this may require surgical decompression

Crowned Dens

