Torticollis in eight year old child due to Grisel’s syndrome and review of literature

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Torticollis due to Grisel's syndrome is an unusual condition that could be fatal. A review of the literature is presented regarding diagnosis and treatment. An eight year old child with acute history of tonsillitis consulted to the emergency department post a trivial fall. Physical examination showed a fixed head or limitation of movement to neutral position and initially a normal neurological examination. Initial cervical X-ray was not diagnostic. The final diagnosis was made by CT scan and MRI. Patient was treated with anti-inflammatory medication, immobilization with cervical traction. Grisel's syndrome is a non-traumatic Atlantoaxial Rotatory Fixation (AARF) with or without subluxation following infection or surgery in the head or neck region. This paper presents an unusual cause of torticollis that could be fatal or cause neurological injury if not recognized and treated appropriately.

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