Auricular calcification

A male 2nd world war veteran had a head CT after a motor vehicle accident.

Imaging Findings:

An elderly man who was involved in a motor vehicle accident, was referred to our hospital for an emergency head CT scan. The patient was hemodynamically stable, had minor head and body bruises and the basic laboratory evaluation was normal. When the patient was asked for previous head injuries, he reported that during Second World War he suffered from extensive ear and nose frostbites.

Discussion:

Auricular calcification is a clinical entity in which auricular cartilage becomes partly or wholly calcified. This condition is generally asymptomatic. Earlobes become hard to palpation and it is an incidental finding in head CT. The occurrence of auricular calcification is unknown. Common causes of this condition are: Cold injuries (frostbites), local trauma, local radiation therapy, hypopituitarism and primary adrenal insufficiency (Adisson’s disease).

Differential Diagnosis List: Auricular calcification

Final Diagnosis: Auricular calcification

References:

Yeatman JM, Varigos GA
Auricular ossification

Larson PL, Weinstock MA, Welch RH
Calcification of the auricular cartilage: a case report and literature review.

Dibartolomeo JR
The petrified auricle: comments on ossification, calcification and exostoses of the external ear
Laryngoscope. 1985 May;95(5):566-76.
Description: Head CT: Bilateral partially calcified auricular cartilages. Origin: