

MRI of the Shoulder

History: 25 –year-old male with chronic shoulder discomfort

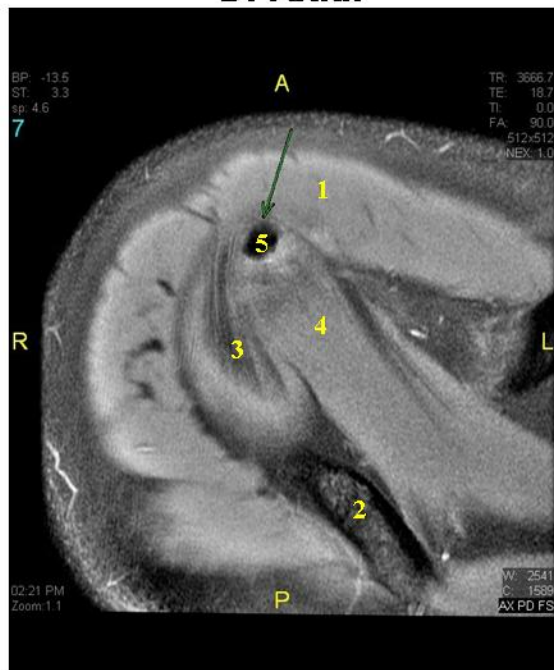
A: Coronal



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1. Acromium
2. AC joint with hypertrophic changes
3. Supraspinatus muscle
4. Glenoid
5. Superior glenoid labrum
6. Inferior axillary recess
7. Bicep tendon in bicipital groove
8. Deltoid muscle
9. Lateral humeral head greater tuberosity
10. Focal calcific tendinitis deposit

B: Axial



B: Axial

1. Deltoid muscle, anterior belly
2. Spine of scapula
3. Distal infraspinatus tendon
4. Distal supraspinatus tendon
5. Low signal deposit of calcium

C: Sagittal



C: Sagittal

1. Deltoid muscle
2. Calcified common tendon deposit
3. Tendinosis of undersurface infraspinatus tendon
4. Humeral head
5. Subacromial cystic changes of humeral head

Diagnosis: Calcific tendonitis. Calcium hydroxyapatite deposition.

Teaching Point: While x-rays are more commonly performed to evaluate for calcific changes of the articular cartilage or tendons, MRI can be a useful adjunct in more clearly defining the exact location and region of involvement. This type of deposit can often be treated by fluoroscopically guided insertion of a needle with saline irrigation and aspiration of the calcific deposit and with instillation of a steroid into the tendon.

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