

## The differential diagnosis of neck stiffness: Tetanus

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### Dear Editor,

Tetanus, meningitis, subarachnoid hemorrhage and degenerative arthritis may be considered the differential diagnosis of neck stiffness in the emergency department. This article presented was of tetanus cases with a history of sinking nails in the emergency department.

50-year-old male patient was brought to the emergency department with complaints of inability to move the jaw, which has 3 days. Patients' relatives have taken to the health center patients with these complaints. However undiagnosed. The general condition of the patient when it

comes to good, clear consciousness was cooperative. There was no evidence except for a stiff neck on physical examination. It was learned that when the history of the deepening 10 days ago nails down. There were no abnormalities in the patient's laboratory values were made. Tetanus patients diagnosed with infectious diseases were admitted to the intensive care unit. Tetanus is rare in the emergency room. It should be considered in the differential diagnosis of neck stiffness. In terms of possible complications, it must be treated early.

**Key words:** tetanus, neck stiffness, early intervention



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